

Hafa Adai!

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Bishop Camacho celebrates
30th episcopal anniversary. » PAGE 7

Saipan Tribune

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75¢



'CLASS OF 2014'

Former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hanneman, founder of the Pacific Century Fellows in Hawaii; Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan join the 18 members of the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter during its inaugural "Class of 2014" at the Fiesta Resort Hotel last Thursday night.

DENNIS B. CHAN

See story and photos
on Pages 5 & 6

Dynasty, US govt in settlement talks

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and the U.S. government are exploring a possible agreement to settle the criminal case against Tinian Dynasty.

According to the minutes of a pretrial conference and motion hearing on Friday, attorney Patrick J. Smith, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Dynasty Investments Ltd., informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the parties are talking of a pos-

See **DYNASTY** on Page 1

Norman Tenorio named Executive of the Year

TUMON, Guam—Norman T. Tenorio, managing director of Joeten Enterprises Inc. and president and CEO of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. on Saipan, was named the 2014 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year at the 32nd annual *Guam Business*



Tenorio

Magazine Executive of the Year award gala held Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The annual *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year gala is a fundraising event for the Guam chapter of the American Red Cross. This year's event drew

approximately 400 people.

A native of Saipan, Tenorio started his working career at the mom-and-pop store that would expand to become Joeten Enterprises, a business his parents, Jose C. "Joeten" and Soledad "DaiDai" Tenorio, started in 1949. The company is now a conglomerate that includes Joeten Motors Co.; J.C. Tenorio

See **NORMAN** on Page 4

Pope urges Filipinos to protect children, give them hope

By **NICOLE WINFIELD** and **TE-RESA CEROJANO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—

Pope Francis ended his Asian pilgrimage Sunday with an appeal for the future of the Catholic Church, urging an estimated 3 million rain-soaked Filipinos

to protect their young from sin and vice so they can instead become missionaries of the faith.

He made the appeal personally by embracing a 12-year-old



AP

Pope Francis shakes the hands of the faithful after celebrated his final Mass in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015.

RELATED NEWS

► Volunteer dies in accident after pope's Mass in PH. PAGE 16

rescued street child who wept in his arms over the plight of children abandoned by their families and forced into prostitution and drug use.

■■■
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Manila city officials and the Vatican say a record 6 million people attended Pope Francis' final Mass in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015.
See **POPE** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Guam National Guard holds a memorial for the late Specialist Christopher Del Rosario of Saipan.
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NATION

A woman died hours after giving birth to quadruplets at a Phoenix hospital.

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LIFE & STYLE

A 6-year-old boy's account of going to heaven is pulled after he retracts his story.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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Local

UMDA retains two Calif. lawyers in suit vs Wickline

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Micronesia Development Association Inc. has retained two lawyers from a law firm based in San Francisco, California, to serve as its counsel in the company's lawsuit against its former president and chief executive officer, David L. Wickline.

UMDA, through counsel Robert T. Torres, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday that it is hiring attorneys Edward W. Swanson and Britt H. Evangelist of Swanson & McNamara LLP to represent

as co-counsels in the case.

Torres asked the court to allow Swanson and Evangelist to practice in the District Court for the NMI.

Torres said Wickline's counsel, Colin M. Thompson, is aware that the court granted UMDA's request to retain new counsel.

Swanson is a trial and appellate lawyer specializing in white collar and general criminal defense as well as commercial litigation cases, according to a website of Swanson and McNamara, a law firm that he founded with Mary McNamara in 1998.

Evangelist represents individuals and corporations in state and federal courts in a wide variety of both civil and criminal matters at both the trial and appellate level.



Swanson



Evangelist

According to the Swanson & McNamara website, Evangelist was selected as a 2013 Rising

Star by the Northern California *Super Lawyers* magazine.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Consuelo B. Marshall recently granted UMDA's emergency request to suspend the proceedings in UMDA's lawsuit against Wickline.

In granting UMDA's motion for emergency stay, Marshall stayed all discovery in the lawsuit for 30 days, until Jan. 16, 2015, to allow UMDA to hire new counsel.

Once a new counsel for UMDA appears, the court will

set a status conference to reset the discovery completion, settlement conference, motion hearings, pretrial, and trial dates.

UMDA asked the court to stay all proceedings and vacate scheduling deadlines pending a resolution of their forthcoming objection to U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy's granting of Wickline's motion to disqualify counsel and pending UMDA's retention of new trial counsel, if necessary.

Last Dec. 5, Kennedy granted Wickline's motion to disqualify the Guam-based law firm of Calvo Fisher & Jacob LLP from representing UMDA in its lawsuit against him.

Kennedy said the law firm's former representations of Wickline are in large part related to the current case in which it represents a party adverse to him, so the court

must disqualify the law firm.

UMDA, through counsel Torres, then filed the motion for emergency stay. Torres said the disqualification order has left UMDA without adequate representation, and UMDA cannot retain replacement counsel unless the case is stayed and the imminent discovery deadlines are vacated.

UMDA is suing Wickline "to protect its shareholders from dilution of their interests in the company, to recover substantial damages that UMDA discovered during the course of its investigation, and to stop Wickline from working behind the scene to undermine shareholder confidence."

Wickline is also suing UMDA, seeking monetary damages. The court consolidated the cases. The court dismissed UMDA's lawsuit. UMDA then filed an amended complaint.

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Saipan pump prices down another 10 cents

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The pump prices of gas stations on Saipan dropped another 10 cents last Thursday, a week after it went down 15 cents to break the psychologi-

cal \$4-per-gallon barrier.

Mobil Oil Marianas gas stations rolled back the price of its regular gas to \$3.81 from \$3.91 per gallon, while its super unleaded is now \$4.13 a gallon from \$4.23. Diesel also retails 10 cents lower at Mobil at \$4.27

per gallon.

Shell Marianas mirrored the slash in Mobil's prices with V-Power now selling at \$3.81 per gallon and diesel at \$4.27 per gallon.

Despite the reduction of gas prices on Saipan, gas stations

on Tinian continue to sell their regular gasoline at \$5.22 per gallon, while diesel is at \$5.80. *Saipan Tribune* wasn't able to verify the price of gas on Rota.

Joy Minor, a mother of two, said the continuing trend of decreasing gas prices is a boon to

her family of four.

She said her family used to spend \$55 a week on gas but because of the rollbacks the past couple of months they now spend only \$40 a week. Minor said she would use the savings on food expenses.

She added that previously they didn't even have to fork over money for gas as her husband, Boyet, used to get gas allowance from his company. That changed, however, when Boyet was assigned to Guam.

"When he moved to Guam we now had to spend for gas, which originally cost us \$400 monthly. But now because of the rollbacks we are actually saving \$100 monthly," she said, while adding that compared to Saipan, gas in Guam is cheaper.

Sun Palace staff Marilyn Montano, for her part, said the decrease in gas prices represents very good savings for her.

"I spend \$40 in two weeks but now I think my \$40 will last for three weeks so I can buy some food on my gas savings," she said.

Saipan motorists may be paying for their gas considerably lower than three months ago, but the island's gas prices are still the highest in the nation.

According to the website www.fuelgaugereport.com, the average cost of regular gas in the U.S. mainland is \$2.076 per gallon, premium is \$2.49 per gallon, while diesel is \$2.923 per gallon.

In terms of states, Missouri has the cheapest gas at \$1.73 per gallon, while Hawaii pays the most expensive gas in the Union at \$3.39 per gallon.

Apatang asks SHEFA board to relocate to Ladera Center

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang has invited the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance to relocate to the Ladera Center where the Mayor's Office is situated.

During the SHEFA board's meeting on Thursday, Apa-

tang said he was informed by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. that the area where the SHEFA office is currently located will be sold and that SHEFA should relocate.

SHEFA board members told Apatang that they were not informed of the situation.

SHEFA board chair Josephine Sablan said that it seems

like a good idea but they'll meet first and talk about it.

Apatang said it would be better to relocate now so there would not be any last minute problems.

He also said they could share the cost of the office and that working closer together would help both offices in the future.

"Actually SHEFA is under the Mayor's Office and I just wanted to meet the board so I came to the meeting and I want to see what problems does SHEFA need assistance on. This is one of the problems because we know this area is being planned to be sold and this building is very small for SHEFA," Apatang said after

the board meeting.

"We're trying to accommodate them so they can be more accessible to the public too and the first option is to check the price and see what the office pays so we can relocate them. The area now where they are at is owned by NMHC and we know they will sell it," he added.

Sablan noted that they do get help from the Mayor's Office on several things that they need done.

TO COLLECT \$87,743 BALANCE ON LOAN Bank of Saipan sues the owners of Elite Printing

Bank of Saipan Inc. is suing the owners of Elite Printing to collect \$87,743.41 that allegedly represents the balance of a \$500,000 loan.

Bank of Saipan Inc. filed a judicial foreclosure action against ASG Corp., Floresto S. Segismundo, and his wife, Lorna.

The bank also included the CNMI Department of Finance Division of Revenue & Taxation, and U.S. Department of the Treasury-Internal Revenue Service as co-defendants.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly contacted Elite Printing yesterday for comment but no one answered the phone.

The bank, through counsel S. Joshua Berger, asked the Superior Court to hold ASG Corp. and the Segismundo couple as personal guarantors, liable to pay monetary damages in the amount of \$87,743.41.

The bank included IRS as a co-defendant because it has two notices of federal tax liens against ASG Corp.

The bank also included CNMI Revenue & Taxation as co-defendant because it has a notice of tax lien against ASG Corp.

Berger said IRS and Revenue & Taxation must be listed as defendants since their secured interest will be discharged if a foreclosure occurs.

Berger asked the court to issue a judgment that \$87,743 plus accruing interest, court costs and attorney's fees, be paid into the court's registry within three months of the court's order or that the property be sold.

The bank requested the court to issue an order discharging any tax liens that IRS and CNMI Revenue & Taxation may have.

The bank asked the court to allow the bank to seize and sell, if necessary, the personal property that also secured the loan.

Berger stated in the complaint that the original loan was \$500,000, but as of Dec. 8,

2014, ASG Corp. and the Segismundos jointly owe the bank \$87,743.41.

Berger said that, as of Oct. 20, 2014, a notice of default was issued by the bank and hand-delivered to the managing agent of ASG Corp. on Oct. 21, 2014, on Saipan, yet the Segismundos have failed to cure the default.

Berger said the last payment made on the loan was on Dec. 19, 2014, in the amount of \$500. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

New trial date for ex-firefighter Benavente

The federal court has reset the jury trial of Richard Sullivan Benavente to April 27, 2015. Benavente is a former firefighter who was indicted for allegedly lying in his testimony during the trial of Raymond B. Roberto.

Benavente's trial was originally set for Dec. 8, 2014, and then reset to early part of 2015.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the new jury trial date on Thursday after reviewing the schedule with defense attorney Michael Dotts and assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton.

Manglona also stated that Benavente's motion to disqualify and motion for pretrial order

will be addressed at the hearing on Jan. 23.

Benavente, who already pleaded guilty to a count of exploitation of a child, has asked the court to disqualify three prosecutors from handling his separate perjury case.

Benavente, through Dotts, said assistant U.S. attorneys Rami Badawy, Garth Backe, and Ross Naughton are percipient witnesses to a critical event in the case.

Dotts said all three could be called to testify and as such, none of the three should prosecute this case.

Last February, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sex-

ual exploitation of a child. He allegedly "persuaded, induced, enticed, and coerced" an underage girl to have sex with him while videotaping the incident on his cell phone.

Benavente is still under the custody.

Last September, Benavente and Randy A. Igisomar were indicted in federal court for allegedly lying or changing their stories during Raymond Roberto's trial.

The indictment charged Benavente with three counts of perjury, and one count of obstruction of justice. It also includes a criminal forfeiture allegation. He pleaded not guilty. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Gorman: Military will incorporate Tinian mayor's request

Joint Region Marianas would take into account the economy and tourism industry of Tinian when it maps out its plans for the island.

According to Joint Region Marianas public information officer Lt. Tim Gorman, Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar made this particular promise to newly sworn in Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas during their meeting last week.

"The military will incorporate the mayor's request to consider

Tinian economic development and tourism factors in military development analysis and planning," said Gorman in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that Bolivar assured San Nicolas that, as the top brass of Joint Region Marianas, she would personally see to it that she would have an active part in resolving military issues on the island.

"We stressed that Rear Admiral Bolivar's role as U.S. Pacific Command's representative for [the] CNMI is to facilitate reso-

lution of all military matters," added Gorman.

Joining Bolivar in her meeting with San Nicolas were Col. Philip Zimmerman, the officer in charge of Marine Corps Activity Guam, and Craig Whelden, the executive director of Marine Forces Pacific.

Currently the CNMI is still awaiting the release of the Commonwealth Joint Military Training plan draft Environmental Impact Study by MarForPac that details how they

See GORMAN on Page 4

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JP Sablan secures commitment of 12 SNILD members

» Coalition assigns chairmanships of local delegation

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) is at the cusp of being elected chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation of the 19th House of Representatives.

This after the precinct 2 lawmaker secured the commitment of nine Saipan representatives, including himself, and three

senators during an informal meeting Friday morning at the Legislature.

After securing the 12 commitments, Sablan immediately went to Rep. Ralph Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) office to inform the minority bloc that he is expected to be chosen as the SNILD chair.

"Just met with the minority letting them know just what transpired so there won't be any surprises and what they should be expecting is forthcoming. That's just how open I intend to be if I'm fortunate enough to win the chairmanship," he told

Saipan Tribune in an interview an hour after the leadership meeting.

The two-term representative said he is humbled by the support of his colleagues from the NMI Republican Party and independent bloc led by House Speaker Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

"Right now, including me, we have 12 supporting me for the chairmanship of the SNILD. We are drafting a memorandum for all the members to sign to call for an organizational session. The tentative date that we all agreed upon—the 12th—is

this Friday, Jan. 23."

The leadership also decided during Friday's meeting on who will be vice speaker as well as the composition of the SNILD standing committees.

Sablan said that serving as the local delegation's vice chair will be Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), while the SNILD floor leader would be Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

The SNILD standing committees chairs are Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations; Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), Committee on

Federal and Foreign Relations; Rep. Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), Committee on Public Utilities, Transportations, and Communications; Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), Committee on Education; DeLeon Guerrero, Committee on Health and Welfare; Rep. Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Committee on Tourism; Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Committee on Way and Mean; vice speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Committee on Natural Resources; and Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), Committee on Commerce.

Sablan said he, Igisomar, and Angel Demapan would serve as co-chairs of the SNILD stand-

ing Committee on Rules and Procedure

Sablan's chief rival for the SNILD chairmanship is Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan). He, however, is only expected to garner nine votes in Friday's scheduled organizational meeting.

The nine that are expected to vote for Tebuteb include himself and Reps. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Anthony T. Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Larry DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (Ind-Saipan).

POPE

From Page 1

Mass and lined his motorcade route.

The chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Francis Tolentino, provided the estimate in a text message to The Associated Press on Sunday.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the Holy See had been told by local officials that the figure was between 6 million and 7 million.

■■■

Francis marked an important feast day honoring the infant Jesus by dedicating the final homily of his weeklong Asian trip, which began in Sri Lanka, to children. It was a reflection of the importance that the Vatican places on Asia as the future of the church since it's one of the few places where Catholic numbers are growing—and on the Philippines as the largest Catholic nation in the region.

"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected," Francis said in his homily. "And we need to care for our young people, not allowing them to be robbed of hope and condemned to a life on the streets."

Francis made a triumphant entry into Manila's Rizal Park riding on a popemobile based on the design of a jeepney, the modified U.S. Army World War II jeep that is a common means of public transport here. He wore the same cheap, plastic yellow rain poncho handed out to the masses during his

visit to the typhoon-hit city of Tacloban a day earlier.

The crowd—a sea of humanity spread out across the 60 hectares (148 acres) of parkland and boulevards surrounding it—erupted in shrieks of joy when he drove by, a reflection of the incredible resonance Francis' message about caring for society's youngest and most marginal has had in a country where about a quarter of its 100 million people lives in poverty.

Organizers had expected that as many as 6 million people might turn out, surpassing the 5 million record set by St. John Paul II at the same park in 1995. With two hours to go before the start of Mass, the chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Francis Tolentino, reported that 3 million had packed the park and surrounding streets.

Francis has dedicated his four-day trip to the Philippines to the poor and marginal. He denounced the corruption that has robbed them of a dignified life, visited with street children and traveled to the eastern city of Tacloban to offer prayers for the survivors of the deadly 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, which devastated one of the Philippines' poorest regions.

Earlier Sunday, Francis drew an estimated 200,000 people to Manila's Catholic university, where he came close to tears himself hearing two rescued street children speak of their lives growing up poor and abandoned.

The pope ditched his prepared remarks and spoke off the cuff in his native Spanish to respond to 12-year-old

Glyzelle Palomar, who wept as she asked Francis why children suffer so much. Palomar, a former street child rescued by a church-run foundation, told him of children who are abandoned or neglected by their parents and end up on the streets using drugs or in prostitution.

"Why is God allowing something like this to happen, even to innocent children?" Palomar said through tears. "And why are there so few who are helping us?"

A visibly moved Francis said he had no answer. "Only when we are able to cry are we able to come close to responding to your question," he said.

"Those on the margins cry. Those who have fallen by the wayside cry. Those who are discarded cry," he said. "But those who are living a life that is more or less without need, we don't know how to cry."

And he added: "There are some realities that you can only see through eyes that have been cleansed by tears."

A steady rain from the same tropical storm that forced Francis to cut short his visit to Tacloban on Saturday fell on the crowd, but it didn't seem to dampen spirits of Filipinos who streamed into the capital for Francis' final day.

"I am not satisfied just seeing him on TV," said Rosalinda Kho, a devout Catholic who arrived before dawn outside Rizal Park with her daughter, Rosana, to score a place for the Mass. "This is a once in a lifetime chance to see him in the flesh, even from afar."

By the time the gates opened, the roads leading to the park were mostly closed.

Many people camped out on tarpaulins on the ground where they had spent the night, surrounded by bags of food. Some pilgrims carried images of the infant Jesus to mark the feast day.

In his homily, Francis urged the crowd to protect their children from sin, alcohol and gambling, saying the devil "distracts us with the promise of ephemeral pleasures, superficial pastimes."

"Filipinos are called to be outstanding missionaries of the faith in Asia," he said.

Bracing for huge crowds, the government put out a public service announcement warning the elderly, pregnant women and children against coming to the event. They urged the crowd to carry their things in transparent plastic bags since they'd be easier to inspect. An appeal to use raincoats rather than umbrellas went unheeded.

Earlier, officials had suggested Mass-goers consider using adult diapers since access to public toilets would be limited. As it was, traffic cops were given diapers since they couldn't leave their posts, though authorities backed off an initial order to use them.

Rommel Monton, a 28-year-old call center agent, said he was struck by Francis' willingness to practice what he preaches, particularly as it concerns the poor.

"He doesn't want to be treated as someone special. Look at his vehicles, they are not bullet-proof. He wanted them to be open so that he can feel he is close to the people," he said. "How will you be able to protect your followers if

you are not with them, if you are afraid to show yourself, to stand behind them or stand before them?"

Francis sought to stand with one Filipino family struck by tragedy during his visit: He spent 20 minutes Sunday meeting with the father of Kristel Padasas, a volunteer with Catholic Relief Services, who died Saturday in Tacloban when scaffolding fell on her.

GORMAN

From Page 3

want to maximize the use of Tinian leased lands.

During a meeting with Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres last week, Bolivar noted that the EIS release has been pushed back for a couple of months.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

sible settlement deal.

At the conference Friday morning, Smith asked the court for a recess until that afternoon due to their ongoing settlement talks.

This prompted U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to move the conference to 1:30pm that same day.

At the conference, attorney Bruce Berline appeared as co-counsel for Smith.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Marivic David and Ross Naughton appeared for the U.S. government. U.S. Internal Revenue Service Criminal Division special agent Todd Peterson also attended the conference.

On Thursday, Manglona ordered the clerk of court to randomly select 60 prospective jurors from a jury pool to appear for next month's trial in the criminal case filed against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd.

Manglona said there are 98 prospective jurors in the jury pool.

The jury trial is set for Feb. 9, 2015, at 8am.

The U.S. government filed in November 2014 a second superseding indictment that contains 158 criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment

Witnesses said a sudden gust of wind toppled the structure, which had served as a platform for a large loudspeaker during the Mass.

The father was overwhelmed by the loss but was "consoled thinking that she had helped prepare the meeting of the people with the pope," said the Rev. Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman.

The official also said that there is still no final decision on where the alternative U.S. Air Force base would be placed.

The U.S. Department of Defense is considering Saipan and Tinian as the location for a divert airfield in case Guam's Andersen Air Force Base in rendered inoperable due to attack or natural calamity. **(Mark Rabago)**

(Overseas) Investment Ltd.

The charges are one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment also has a notice of forfeiture.

The initial indictment had charged HKE and then-VIP services manager George Que and then-casino manager Tim Blyth with only 10 charges. Que and Blyth had entered into a settlement deal with the U.S. government in exchange for dropping the criminal charges against them.

HKE recently hired former federal prosecutor and now New York lawyer Patrick J. Smith of the law firm DPL Piper as Berline's co-counsel in the case.

According to the indictment, HKE allowed gamblers at Tinian Dynasty to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without filing CTRs with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network from September 2009 to April 25, 2013.

Tinian Dynasty allegedly failed to file about 3,640 CTRs for cash transactions over \$10,000 as required by law. The total dollar amount of reportable currency transactions that were not filed is about \$1.38 million.

NORMAN

From Page 1

Enterprise grocery market, department store and restaurants; Joeten Ace Hardware; the Joeten Superstore wholesale club; Marianas Management Corp.; Construction Material & Supply Inc.; Joeten Wholesale; and franchises for The Athlete's Foot and Napa Auto Parts.

Tenorio is also president of Tropical Instant Press Inc.; secretary/treasurer of Saipan

Shipping Co.; president of Saipan Stevedore; president of Advance Carrier and is on the boards of directors for Guahan Insurance Services and Nanbo Guam Ltd., which does business as Nanbo Insurance. He is a trustee of the Joeten DaiDai Foundation and also makes charitable contributions to various sports events, the Marianas Islands Nature Alliance, and the American Red Cross, among other organizations.

Tenorio is featured in portraiture on the cover of the *Guam*

Business Magazine January-February issue, which was released at the gala.

Tenorio, 63, was this year's only nominee from the Northern Mariana Islands, joining nine others from Guam: Gener F. Deliquina, CEO of Coast360 Federal Credit Union; James S. Herbert III, general manager of Triple J Five Star Wholesale Inc.; Jeffrey P. Larsen, president of TakeCare Insurance Co. Inc.; Renie "Rey" Llaneta, president of Re/Max Asyenda

Realty Philippines and manager – Western Pacific region for Chugach Alaska Corp.; Hiroyuki Miyata, president and CEO of LeoPalace Guam Corp., which does business as LeoPalace Resort; Milton K. Morinaga, managing director of P.H.R. Ken Micronesia Inc.; Donna M. Quinata, senior vice president of Auto Spot Mitsubishi; John M. Robertson, president of AmOrient Engineering; and Peter R. Sgro Jr., president and chairman of International Group Inc. **(PR)**

PCF MARIANAS CELEBRATES INAUGURAL CLASS

‘Raise the consciousness of the Pacific region’

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter celebrated its inaugural “Class of 2014” at the Fiesta Resort Hotel last Thursday night.

The class of 18 professionals from the public and private sec-

tor were addressed by none other than former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hanneman, founder of the Pacific Century Fellows that began in Hawaii.

Tan Holdings, through the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, formed the Marianas Chapter, which began their nine-month program last year, beginning with



Abner Paul Acosta



Christopher Concepcion



Emanuel Borja



Eulalia Villagomez



Alfreda Marie Camacho

a two-day retreat, and a daylong session each month featuring a guest community leader for discussions on tourism, education, government, healthcare and quality of life in the CNMI.

The class of 18 was made up of Abner Paul Acosta, Ivan Blanco, Emanuel Borja, Frank Lee Borja, Alfreda Marie Camacho, Jacqueline Che, Christopher Concepcion, Bobby James Cruz, Geralyn Dela Cruz, Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Angel Demapan, Michelle Kramer, Velma Ann Palacios, Leo Pangelinan, Vincent Seman, Joseph Tajeron, Juan Diego Tenorio, and Eulalia Villagomez.

The 18 applied, were interviewed, and judged according to criteria, to be part of the program.

‘Raise the consciousness of the Pacific’

Hannemann gave the special remarks at Thursday’s event, where he urged a Pacific and indigenous-based vision for the region’s future.

He took his inspiration for PCF from the White House Fel-

lows program, which he was part of in 1983-84. He described it as his “dream and vision” to establish one in Hawaii and then throughout the Pacific region.

PCF had its inaugural class in 1997. There have been 14 graduating classes of fellows since then, Hannemann said, producing many government and private leaders.

A goal of the program was to establish networking that would “lead to working together rather than apart” and help fellows realize each had a stake in improving their community.

He said they’ve done just that, with their classes getting together regularly.

He added that their “most

Continued on Next Page



Angel Demapan



Bobby James Cruz



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-15-009

A-16 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 13, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-15-009, A-16 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 15, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹**
- III. REPORTS**
 - a. Chair’s Report
 - b. Executive Director’s Report
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
 - b. Licensing Matters
 - 1) Casino Key Employee Applications
 - 2) Casino Employee Applications
 - 3) Hotel Registrations
 - 4) Casino Service Industry License Applications
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²**
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS**
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

¹Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



Frank Lee Borja



Geraldyn Dela Cruz



Ivan Blanco



Jacqueline Che



Joseph Tajeron



Juan Diego Tenorio



Leo Pangelinan



Matthew Deleon Guerrero



Michelle Kramer



Velma Ann Palacios



Vincent Seman

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important" goal was to "raise the consciousness of the importance of the Pacific region."

"Not from an European perspective, not from an American perspective, not from an Asian perspective, but from the perspective of the indigenous people who call Pacific home," he continued.

He gave the Marianas fellows "three pointers"—to continue efforts to "repeat, re-

cite, and reemphasize the story of the Pacific."

"We are a unique people and our history has often been shortchanged. Our culture has been misunderstood, and oftentimes we are underappreciated for what we have done throughout the years," he said.

"Just think about the glorious story of how the Pacific was settled, of how the Pacific came together," he said, referring to Micronesian and

Polynesian leader navigators like Mau Pailug and Nainoa Thompson, respectively.

"[These leaders] have been able to tell the people of the world: 'The Pacific island people knew where they were going.' They knew, guided not by modern day instrumentation but by the stars, by the birds, by their own instinctiveness and daring and bold adventurous souls" that "they were able to settle and navigate this Pacific," he said.

He asked the fellows to "tell the world" that they have much to learn from the Pacific island peoples about issues with fisheries and climate change. "All those things we know instinctively, we know through our forefathers. And we should be part of the discussion and the dialogue and the solutions" to these problems, he said.

A grateful class

A class video played at the event on Thursday had all 18

members giving messages about the program and what they've gained.

One member, Angel Demapan, now a member of the House Representative since he joined the program, said that Hahnemann's maxim: "Leave this place better than we found it" is something that will stick with him as he tries to better the himself and the CNMI.

Another member, Frank Lee S. Borja said, "Growth and progress is not of the West."

"I come from a line of some of the world's best navigators, healers, and warriors. And even in the face of a hundreds of years of colonization, they have the strength to retain their cultural identity," he said.

Leo Pangelinan said one of his favorite PCF sessions was a talk on the importance of having a vision "using cultural principles and context" to lead.

Pangelinan said Pacific navigators had their islands "in mind," not needing maps

in their travels. Without this vision, he said, "they would have been lost."

Christopher Concepcion took inspiration from CNMI leaders during the Covenant negotiations, who he imagined lived in a time that was "idyllic, serene, sleepy but exciting and full of hopes and dreams all at the same time."

Matthew Deleon Guerrero said he found a dialogue within the group that was "not just rhetoric" but "moving toward a solution"—which is something the CNMI "desperately needs."

Eulalia Villagomez said that "any solutions to anything we face in our lives or in the CNMI is within us."

For Bobby James Cruz, the program was "not about knowing more than the person you are conversing with" but taking your skills and talents, listening with an open mind, and expanding discourse to "ignite innovative thinking and doing."

Bishop Camacho celebrates 30th episcopal anniversary

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Thirty years since joining the Holy Order, Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho considers his biggest moment in life to be his priestly ordination, on Jan. 13, 1985, after being named the first bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by Pope John Paul II.

"My ordination was a tremendous honor, joy, and responsibility at the time. People were just wonderful and the entire island was just so beautiful," he recounted. "We all felt appreciative for being recognized as a mature group of Catholics in the area. The unity amongst the Catholics was evident."

Public urged to support 'Scratch, Win, and Fight Cancer' fundraiser

Tickets are still being sold for the Commonwealth Cancer Association and Joeten's "Scratch, Win, and Fight Cancer" fundraiser.

CCA program manager Juan Babauta said Friday that the fundraiser is still ongoing and he urged the public to purchase tickets for a great cause.

"Our fundraiser will be for our community to support those with cancer and we're urging the public to help this great cause," Babauta said.

He said that Joeten and CCA are partnering up for

The retired bishop has faced complications with his health in the past year but remains strongly devoted to the church as he celebrates his 30th episcopal anniversary along with the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's 30th anniversary.

While resting in his Kannat Tabla home, he spends mornings on his green recliner with the news playing in the background while his nurse administers his daily antibiotics.

Although he spends most of his day resting and in prayer, he still receives communion from Fr. Rey Rosal at his home and occasionally drives around the island with family in the afternoon.

"I really thank all the count-

the fundraiser.

The fundraiser began on Jan. 12 and will continue until April 12. Tickets are being sold at \$1 and can be found at all four Joeten Enterprises markets around the island.

For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050, email them at ccamarianas@gmail.com, visit them at their website at www.ccamarianas.org, or visit them at their office near NMPASI and 670 Rocksteady Shop on Middle Road. (**Jayson Camacho**)



Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

less people that have been very good to me in the past years," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*. "I am grateful for those who have made my life more jubilant. Not once did I experience animosity. I am very grateful to our islands' Catholics and non-Catholics who are supporting me even in my twilight years."

He is especially thankful to his niece, Ignatia Aldan, who moved in with him to provide aid after he was first transported to the hospital.

"Thank God she's here," he said with a sigh of relief. "Her family takes care of me and I do not know what I would do without them."

Grace Christian Ministries to hold walk, run, bike on Jan. 24

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, Grace Christian Ministries will hold a Fun Walk, Run & Bike on Jan. 24, 2015, at Banzai Cliff beginning at 6:30am.

Participants may join one or more categories: 3K walk, 5K run, or 10K bike ride. Registration by Jan. 23 is \$5, and registration will be \$8 on event

day. Registration on event day starts at 5:30am. Proceeds of the event will go toward the opening of a new church in Tanapag, Saipan.

"We are excited to not only raise funds but to have fun, get a little exercise and do it at one of the most beautiful places on the island," said Becky Robles,

Even though officially "retired," the bishop happily continues to serve the religious community by writing regularly for the *North Star* and finalizing his Chamorro translations of religious scripture. The bishop devotes time every day toward his translation work. He considers it his "greatest work" after completing the translation of the New Testament.

Camacho said Fr. Jose Maria Tardio is his greatest inspiration to this day. The Spanish Jesuit baptized and confirmed the bishop and gave Camacho his first communion.

As a young child growing up in Garapan during World War II, Camacho was an altar server during his teen years. At 15 years old, the bishop had already made up his mind to pursue the priesthood as a vocation.

With the sound of bombs dropping on the island still fresh in his mind, he recounted a church assembly where the presider asked the altar serv-

ers which of them wanted to become a priest. Immediately, Camacho raised his hand, not knowing that one day he'd lead the diocese and the islands in its religious infancy.

The church has seen much growth since he was named the island's first bishop. That change, he said, makes him feel content with the modern-day church.

"Before, people had very limited knowledge of Jesus and the church. Their faith was very fragile," he added. "But with all the education, media, and technology, their faith has matured and they know more. Even with issues in the church, the faith of the people is still not shaken. Their faith is in God and I am happy with that."

As the diocese marks its 30th anniversary, Camacho urges young males in the community to consider the priesthood as a vocation and the youth to "enjoy themselves while following the teachings of Jesus."

Navy Hill at 9am. Leading up to the anniversary service, a celebratory concert will be held at American Memorial Park on Jan. 30, 2015, starting at 5:30pm.

Grace Christian Ministries has churches on Navy Hill, in Kagman, and San Antonio. (**GCM**)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 • T: (670) 236-9715 • F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL

On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be \$16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PRO SE CLIENT SERVICE ASSISTANT

On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Manager of the Family Court or his/her designee. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assist Pro Se clients when they come to the Family Court Division seeking assistance in filing their case;
- Assist in the development and enhancement of the Family Court Pro Se Court Services program for family violence cases;
- Maintain and promote positive workflow with Victim Advocates and all other agencies involved in the processing and distribution of family protection cases / TRO (FP/TRO);
- Participate in court and special hearings for all family protection cases;
- Assist the courtroom clerks with docketing and scheduling of hearings for FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Assist in the distribution of orders, pleadings and other documents in FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Coordinate and schedule home assessments as well as process referral orders for those court clients referred to social mental health services;
- Conduct interviews of court clients and their families; analyze the information, identify possible problem areas, make recommendations concerning the case, and make referrals to other social service agencies;
- Input case information into the Justware Case Management System and the Lexis Nexus E-filing system;
- Attend the monthly Family Violence Task Force meetings;
- Assist in planning and coordination of domestic violence training conferences;
- Maintain and monitor the Victims of Crime Act formula grant program's goals and objectives which will include the preparation of quarterly reports, compilation of case statistics and processing of purchase requisitions, and;
- Adhere to and comply with all promulgated policies, standards and codes of ethical conduct;
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Client Service Coordinator should have High School Diploma or equivalent from an accredited college with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in social work, criminal justice, or related service, plus one (1) year of experience in clerical, data collection, or similar field. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be \$18,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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Guam National Guard honors Saipan soldier

The Guam National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment held a memorial ceremony at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada to remember and honor a brother in arms.

Hundreds of soldiers from the Guam National Guard's 1st-294 Infantry Regiment gathered Sunday morning, Jan. 11, to honor the late Specialist Christopher Del Rosario, 21, who died in a tragic and fatal motorcycle accident on Saipan, on Christmas Eve. His wife, Svetlana Sasamoto, was in attendance to mourn her late husband and thank the Guard for the military honors given to her husband during his funeral on Jan. 2 on Saipan.

Del Rosario was born on Saipan on April 16, 1993, and joined the Guam Army National Guard as an indirect fire infantryman on Sept. 10, 2010. As a member of the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Del Rosario deployed with Task Force Guam in 2013. He served in various positions, including machine gunner, mini



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A makeshift memorial for the late Specialist Christopher Del Rosario is erected at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada.

resistant ambush protected vehicle driver, and dismounted personal security detachment team member, all of which contributed to the success of the battalion's mission.

Sunday's memorial opened with a prayer by Chaplain John Tomada, followed by remarks by the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Romeo Delfin, who talked about "... the many layers of Chris Del Rosario—a son, a husband, a father and a soldier." Delfin told Svetlana Del Rosario, "Always know that you will always be part of the 1st-

294th Infantry's family, and we will never forget Chris."

SPC Del Rosario left behind his wife of three years, Svetlana Sasamoto, his son, London Christopher Del Rosario, 3, and his daughter Savannah Sasamoto Del Rosario, 1.

SPC Steely Dan Mapote gave a moving eulogy, remembering how hardworking and passionate Del Rosario was. "Chris was a very sociable person, he had many friends. It wasn't hard to get along with Chris as he was well liked and well respected. Someone you can trust and confide in, some-

one who always had your back! He was someone we all had the privilege of knowing. He will be missed!"

After reading several scripture verses, Chaplain Richard Kelley gave this message about Del Rosario's life. "As we reflect on Christopher, let us celebrate the wonderful life he led. He was one of ours, one of our soldiers!"

The roll call by First Sgt. Marlon Cruz concluded with a solemn salute by all in attendance as Taps played in the background—a final tribute to their brother in arms. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Guam National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment take part in the memorial service for the late Specialist Christopher Del Rosario at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada.

Two more NMC Nursing graduates pass NCLEX



LIZARDO



PRADO

Two more Northern Marianas College students have just passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN, joining the other NMC students who also recently passed the same exam.

John Lizardo and Angela Prado, who graduated from NMC in May 2014, took the exam in December 2014.

"When they were students, I had an opportunity to see John and Angela apply their nursing knowledge and skills gained throughout their training in the care of their assigned patients," said Rosa Tudela, NMC Nursing Department chairperson. "They both demonstrated safe nursing practices under my supervision, and I was quite pleased with their progress and growth throughout the semesters."

"After graduation, they pursued studying for the NCLEX-RN exam, and I am very happy and proud that with their perseverance, they passed the

NCLEX-RN exam in December of 2014 and are now licensed to practice as registered nurses in the CNMI," added Tudela. "Congratulations, John and Angela! Well done."

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual's nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in the states and all U.S. territories to award nurse licenses. Licensed nurses may have their credentials endorsed by a state or a territory's board upon meeting board requirements without having to retake the exam.

For Prado, working in the field of medicine has always been a dream. She chose nursing, she said, "mostly because I like being able to help people in any way I can." She also acknowledged that her success could not have been done without the motivation and support of her family, "especially my mother who did not

pressure me to work, which allowed me to study."

"NMC also prepared me well for the exam," said Prado.

Prado shared this advice to students who plan on taking the NCLEX exam: "There is no other way but to really sit yourself down and start reading your book or any other study material. Once you establish a routine, you'll find it

easier and even start to really enjoy reviewing what you've learned in nursing school."

Lizardo's interest in becoming a nurse was sparked by his mother who is also a nurse.

"My mother is my motivation; she is actually my role model," said Lizardo. "Hard work, time management, and focus helped me along the way. My parents guided me through every step, and nurtured me with the passion and understanding, that led me to this remarkable accomplishment."

"NMC's Nursing program taught me the knowledge, skills, and competence of how to successfully become a registered nurse," added Lizardo.

For more information about the NMC Nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 237-6743 or visit the Nursing Department office in Building C at the NMC As Terlaje campus (M-F, 8am-4:30pm). (NMC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family members of the late Specialist Christopher Del Rosario attend the memorial ceremony.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

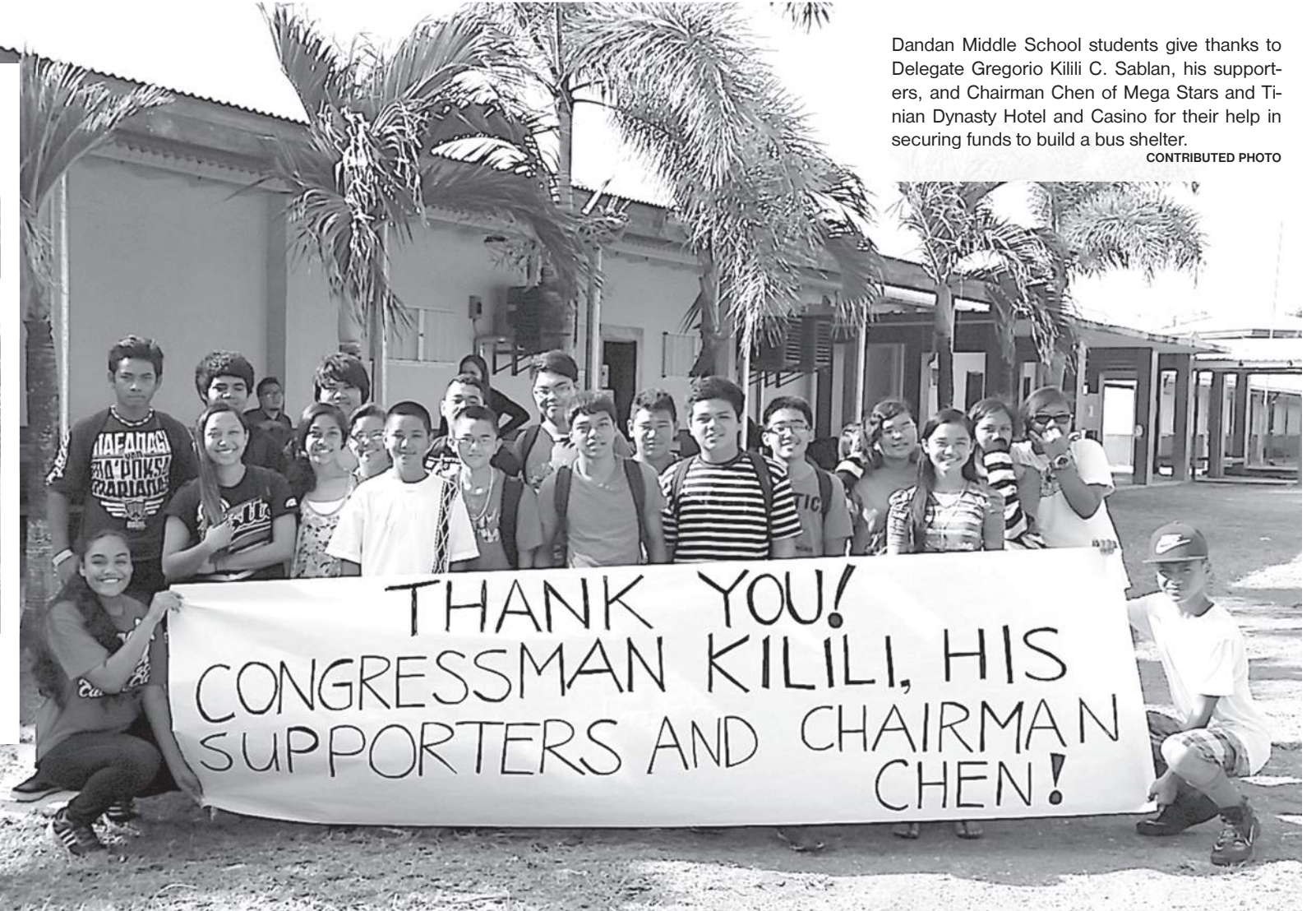
Members of the Guam National Guard's 1st-294th Infantry Regiment salute the late Specialist Christopher Del Rosario during a memorial ceremony at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada.

DMS finally gets own bus shelter, thanks to supporters



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The newly built bus shelter give Dandan Middle School students a safe and sheltered designated area while they wait for their bus.



Dandan Middle School students give thanks to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, his supporters, and Chairman Chen of Mega Stars and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for their help in securing funds to build a bus shelter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

During a luncheon fundraiser last year, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan sponsored a raffle event to help the Dandan Middle School raise funds to build a bus shelter. Sablan provided all the 40-plus prizes that were raffled off on Oct. 25, 2014. The prizes included split type air conditioners, art work, \$100 gift certificates, \$100 cash prizes, etc.

Toward the last hour of Sablan's luncheon fundraiser, the DMS STUCO president announced

that the school has raised \$1,700 out of the \$4,200 needed to proceed with the bus shelter project. The school was still short about \$2,500. At this announcement, Chairman Chen of Mega Stars and owner of Tinian Dynasty approached Sablan and expressed that he would like to help DMS by covering the difference of what was needed for the bus shelter project. The news was shared with the PTSA president, Bobbie Sablan, and

Lynn Mendiola, DMS principal, who announced the good news to everyone in the luncheon with much gratitude and happiness. The check in the amount of \$2,500 was delivered to the school but Chen was unable to deliver it himself as he was on a business trip in Hong Kong.

On Jan. 13, 2015, the project was completed. Now students have a safe and sheltered designated area while they wait for their bus. During rainy

weather, students are no longer getting drenched and soaking wet when they get home.

On behalf of the students, teachers and parents of Dandan Middle School, principal Mendiola would like to extend her deepest appreciation to everyone that supported DMS on this project, and most especially to Delegate Sablan and Chairman Chen of Mega Stars. Thank you for putting students first! **(PR)**

Family cleans Tank Beach, Marine Beach

The "Landfill of Bottle Caps" and "Plastic Beach" were no match for one family who joined in the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas campaign on Jan. 10.

Twenty-one family members and friends picked up debris at Tank Beach and Marine Beach

on Saipan, as reported by participant Sarah Lynn T. Kapileo in an after-action report.

"As we parked [at Tank Beach], there were trash scattered under the short coconut trees that lined the parking area...beer cans, bento boxes, cigarette butts, plastic bags,

spoons and forks. After we picked up all the trash in the parking area, we walked down to the beach, where tons of trash was seen," said Kapileo. "It was explained that most of the trash that lined up along the shore were washed up by the waves. Bottles of water, soda, deter-

gent, oil and others filled up our bags. Bottle caps! There were tons of them..."

Following Tank Beach, the group proceeded to Marine Beach.

"It was an ugly site to see," said Kapileo. "Under the pavilions, there were bottles and cans of beer and soda, Styrofoam plates, cups, spoons and forks.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sarah Lynn Kapileo, family members, and friends cleaned Tank Beach and Marine Beach on Saipan on Jan. 10, 2015, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family members young and old of Sarah Lynn Kapileo cleaned Tank Beach and Marine Beach in Saipan on Jan. 10, 2015, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program.

We walked down to the beach, and there we found baskets, more bottles and other plastic rubbish that washed up on the shore. My little cousins were now tired and just want to look at the many shells and hermit crabs that were running around the beach. It made me wonder how many other creatures lost their lives because of this rubbish."

The team cleaned at Marine Beach for almost three hours.

"It was hard work, but hard work that paid off," said Kapileo. "And our little cousins came to understand that it is not right, at all, to throw trash around."

The "Beautify My Marianas" program offers \$100 for each 1-mile cleanup in assigned areas. For more information or an application for "Beautify My Marianas" visit the MVA homepage at www.mymarianas.com. **(MVA)**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Free MLK: The family feuds over the rights leader's artifacts



If Martin Luther King Jr. hadn't been assassinated in 1968, he could have turned 86 today, Jan. 15. The half-century anniversaries of the 1963 March on Washington, the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Acts would have made him a much sought after commentator about an era he helped to shape.

It is also likely, if King were still alive, that his three surviving children would not be locked in a messy legal battle over control of his possessions and intellectual property.

The man who donated the money from his Nobel Peace Prize to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other rights groups probably would not have sought payments or licensing fees from journalists and scholars for access to his speeches. His children have tried to do this without embarrassment.

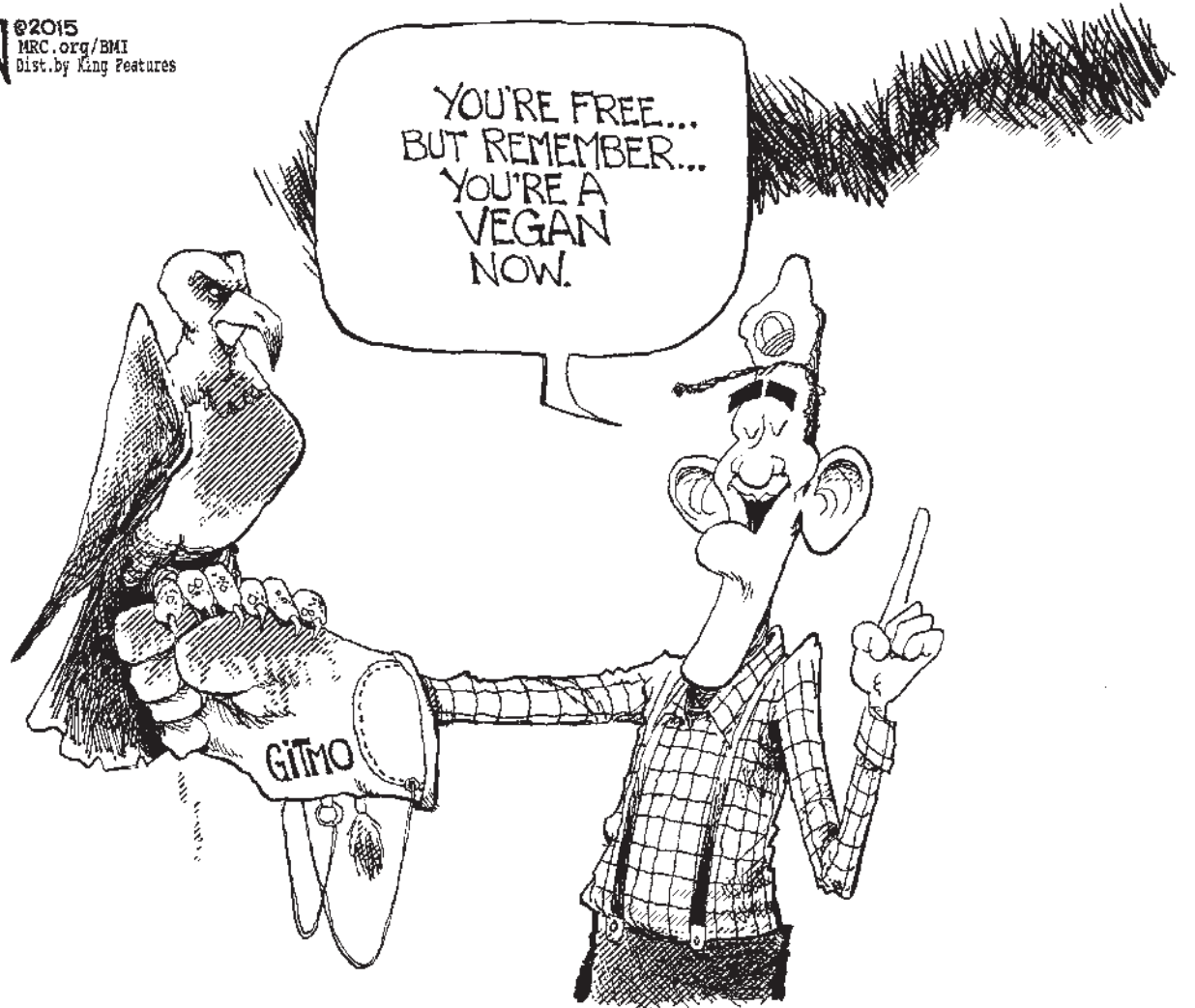
Martin Luther King did not profit from his acclaim. To him, it would have been unthinkable. But the unthinkable is business as usual for his children. Dexter King, Martin Luther King III and Bernice King are locked in a pair of lawsuits against each other over control of their father's effects, including an annotated Bible and his Nobel medal.

The brothers want to sell the heirlooms, which are controlled by the Estate of Martin Luther King Jr. Inc., for millions of dollars. Ms. King has tried to head that off in court, arguing that the items belong in the family. The brothers have countersued the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, a nonprofit that gets significant funding from the estate and is headed by Ms. King.

On Tuesday, a judge in Fulton County Superior Court in Georgia held a hearing on whether the Bible and Nobel medal belong to the brothers or their sister. If Martin Luther King were alive, we suspect he would say that the heirlooms — and his historic words — belong to all Americans.

That his sons want to sell them to the highest bidder may have broken King's heart. Their legal war to do so makes a mockery of his legacy and turns his dream into a scheme.

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The spy who came into the cold

The title dates us a bit, to be precise a play on John Le Carré's Cold War novel and a 1965 movie with Richard Burton and Claire Bloom, *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold*. I am no "spy" but, associated with the global staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, we were a letter placement different from the CIA.

A human development outfit, we saw the cultural dynamic in the social process as the key to any substantive change. We kept an eye on the sensation, emotion, cognition, and action of folks we were in dialogue with, so the accusation of being a spy for the CIA, for the depth of our endeavors and the global network width and breath, we were suspected of being under clandestine support and mission.

"Spy" may or may not be a figment of outsiders' imagination, and for sure it was not a role we shied away from. An economist turned industrialist high on Imelda Marcos' entourage was convinced of my double identity that I suspect he carried that to his grave. When Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos finally had to hightail it out of Malacañang Palace during the People Power days in '86, the colleague turned to me and bluntly said: "You guys did not come through with what you promised!" I was not surprised.

When I moved to China four years ago, and decided to permanently stay the remaining years of my life in *Zhongguo*, having invested time and assets on a dwelling in Manchuria, in Shenbei, a suburb of Shenyang in Liaoning, a northeast province of China, for the next 17 years remaining of my projected and intended existence, the charge of "spying" has been aired more than once. *C'est la vie!* Here we go again.

I am not concerned in this reflection on the art or the craft of "spying" as Joe Race at NMC and his fertile imagination, which he shares with students in English classes, does a better job at that than I do. Let me tell you about the Cold.

The characterization of weather in *Dong Bei* (northeast) China at SAU when I first got here was that we had two weeks of spring, two months of summer, two days of autumn, and the rest is Cold Winter! It is clearly an exaggeration, but poetically a truthful one.

A month from now will be when the Lunar New Year kicks off the spring festival right down dead winter when I will still be bundled up in muffs and muffler. Or, hibernate indoors, save that the calories drown in cholesterol.

I remember in Chile when I was invited to dinner "for two days," a euphemistic but accurate reference to continuous dining and drinking. Well, New Year in China is similarly observed in some quarters, though it is still largely a family affair, and since sticking a red Mao (¥100) into a red envelope for the children is a widely exercised practice, expenditures on the *bai jiu* (white sorghum wine that's vodka-like) and a puritanical current administration, has got

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



the strings disciplined at the purse.

The elders in the Liu family are 80 and 76 years of age, grandpa legally blind, so he walks around with dark glasses. They reside in the Huanggu district in Shenyang, on a fourth floor apartment built when elevators were not yet in vogue. (Buildings no taller than six floors still do not have elevators, though new elevator-less dwellings like our new apartment are now only four stories high.)

Two years ago, I joined my host family in the purchase of the apartment and my share was a seventh of the cost. The place is on the first floor that makes it easy on the old knees. I get one of three bedrooms. The 100 sq. m. front and back gardens keeps Lady Liu busy with her flowers and vegetables.

I got a quiet place to write. Across the gated community south is SAU and north is the Puhe River that attracts urban picnickers in the summer. A parkway will delight Mr. Liu and other elder's legs and canes. He will make new friends as employment discourages anyone over 45 years of age not to apply! China's new living standard rose dramatically in the last two decades; life expectancy rose as well so he shall have ample company to watch the summer sun ebb in the west.

It snowed intermittently last week. My language class finishes at 7:30pm when it is already very dark and the three office folks, none over 25, walk me to my place "to make sure I get home safe." The pathways were clear yesterday, warm enough that the snow that fell during the day did not remain on the ground. This morning I woke up to white.

Times like this is when the cold is most instructive. My rheumatoid arthritis is no stranger to arm, finger, and leg joints; squatting has since progressed to a chore, and rising back up simply on the strength of one's knees is next to impossible. More telling was at a masseuse. Pressure points on the neck, wrists, elbows, and knees were uncomfortable but tolerable. When it came down to the calf, it was evident that the old wagon had worn out its warranty with no appeal. I hit the ceiling. Muscle and bone aches have come to roost for good.

Welcome to the cold!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Power sharing

An informal agreement reached on the eve of the 19th House of Representatives' inaugural session averted a leadership crisis in the short term, but this sharing of the speakership between Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) is not necessarily the best compromise to stabilize an almost divided chamber.

Under what Deleon Guerrero himself described as a "unique and unprecedented arrangement," he serves as speaker starting on Jan. 12, 2015, and will pass on the leadership to vice speaker Demapan on the second Monday of January 2016. No re-vote is expected.

But once this arrangement is tampered with, it becomes a source of more tension and conflict. As it is now, the House is almost split in the middle. And the split is almost between those who supported the Inos-Torres gubernatorial tandem and those that backed the Hofschneider-Yumul team led by Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), as well as the differing views mainly on the Saipan casino bill.

Tebuteb's team then becomes the minority or opposition bloc, which strives to become the true "voice of reason" and ensure that the House and the Senate do not become a rubber stamp Legislature to the Inos administration. The House leadership is aligned with the Inos-Torres administration, and so is the Senate leadership. Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres was instrumental in the leadership compromise reached.

Some believe that a Tebuteb speakership could pave the way for the repeal of the Inos-backed Saipan casino law, among other things, although there is hope that being a minority bloc don't necessarily mean being obstructionists.

Deleon Guerrero, in his inaugural session remarks, asked his colleagues to have confidence that he can work with each and

every one of them.

"I think if I was asked what is my strength, it would be the long-term relationships I created with people and trying to improve on those relationships. You may call it politics or call it as you may, but it can work. It's a two-way street, of course. If we can come on board with the same attitude of working together as said by every member I heard, I too have optimism that great things would happen," the speaker said.

But then again, it took two months for 20 elected officials to choose their speaker. That does not bode well for the legislative process—introducing new bills, amending existing laws, holding public hearings on bills, debating them, voting on them or shelving them, and passing a balanced budget on time to avoid a government shutdown.

Part of the process, too, is making sure special interest bills do not pass the Legislature, and that bills go through public hearings and properly debated before any voting.

In the 18th House of Representatives, at least 212 bills got introduced and only a few underwent public hearings. The exclusive Saipan casino license bill itself passed the House and Senate without public hearings and then became law, whereas less-impact bills got public hearings but not until close to the November 2014 elections as last-ditch effort to get votes. During the 18th Legislature, 68 bills introduced became law and 49 of them originated from the House.

Prior to reaching a last-minute compromise, Deleon Guerrero only had four expected votes while Demapan had seven and Tebuteb had nine. Only those supporting Deleon Guerrero and Demapan were at the meeting to try to break the deadlock so it didn't come

Many different ways to run for president

Beyond raising barrels of bucks, building an organization and developing a rationale, there are many different ways to run for president. Early starts help, command of the issues is essential, debate performances can be crucial, and mistakes hurt, whether big or small.

As the increasingly complicated 2016 Republican race unfolds, some variety in approaches is becoming evident, both on issues and style.

Only in retrospect will we know who got it right.

Until Mitt Romney suddenly re-emerged last week, the most fascinating aspect of the race may have been those contrasts within the unwieldy GOP field.

I count at least five separate mini-contests: 1) former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush vs. 2012 nominee Romney for the establishment's traditional "next-in-line" slot; 2) Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul vs. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio for the "new face" banner; 3) Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, outgoing Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, and Dr. Ben Carson to champion the evangelical right;

4) Govs. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, Pence, Perry and, possibly, John Kasich of Ohio for the experience-in-governing executive's slot; and

5) Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for backing from party moderates and Romney skeptics.

It's hard to imagine more than one prime prospect emerging from each group. A bitter battle between Romney, Bush and Christie for establishment donors and voters might make it harder for any of them to defeat their more conservative rivals. But a split among religious conservatives might enable a more moderate aspirant to win, as in 2008 and 2012.

Until Romney's unexpected move, the most revealing early sub-contests were the Paul-Christie duel on foreign policy and, more recently, what could become a Bush-Christie elimination race.

Bush's unexpected early announcement played to his positives, showing him to be methodical, careful and well-organized. Meanwhile, though not quite ready to run, Christie seemed inadvertently to stress his negatives with appearances emphasizing a less-than-presidential persona.

Despite a long absence from high-level presidential politics, Bush and his advisers showed they have been paying attention. He sought to avoid the land mines that helped to cripple Romney in 2012 by resigning from business boards and other ventures, directing release of millions of gubernatorial emails and disclosing he'll release up to 10 years of tax returns.

By **CARL P. LEUBSDORF**
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.



The underlying presumption seemed to be that, if anything was politically damaging, better for it to emerge in spring 2015, not spring 2016.

Moving quickly and decisively, Bush lined up some key fundraisers, presumably one factor spurring Romney's reassessment.

He also subtly tempered some policy views, coupling continued opposition to gay marriage with a statement of respect for married gays and laws legalizing their ties, and expressing a more flexible immigration stance than at times in his harder line past. Notably, he decided to bypass the Jan. 24 Iowa Freedom Summit sponsored by Rep. Steve King, the arch-conservative congressman known for his colorful language opposing immigration reform.

Sending out signals of principle over politics and pointedly avoiding often failed Romney stances may explain the former Massachusetts governor's launch of what seems initially a challenge to Bush.

Meanwhile, Christie took more of a 2012-like Romney approach, and contrasted himself with Bush, by deciding to attend King's summit, along with Sarah Palin and the GOP's more conservative hopefuls, not to mention an audience of Iowa conservatives unlikely to be Christie backers in next February's caucuses.

His most publicized recent appearance was in that bizarre scene showing him hugging an equally exuberant Jerry Jones as the Dallas Cowboy owner's guest at a National Football League playoff game. Along with the oddity of a governor from a state filled with fans of three NFL teams embracing the rival Cowboys, the incident produced the kind of story Christie doesn't need, questioning his ethics in facilitating Jones' business relationship with the New York Port Authority, which Christie helps run.

On Tuesday, Christie returned briefly to his day job for his State of the State speech. But it underscored his problems at home, notably budget woes and declining popularity.

Much that transpires in January 2015 may prove quickly forgotten. But inevitably some seemingly insignificant events will influence these mini-battles now defining the GOP race.

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI.



as a surprise that Tebuteb's team was left out of the pre-arranged leadership, though he would have only needed two additional votes to win the speakership.

"It could have gone either way. Tebuteb's group could have joined Deleon Guerrero's group or Demapan's group. It was just a matter of majority rather than issues at the time... It allows for more ability to pass legislation," one of the members of the GOP-Independent coalition said after the fact.

Being a member of the majority almost always means a member's bill gets passed more easily than those introduced by minority members. As one member puts it, "It's not impossible to pass legislation as a minority. It just takes a little more persuasion."

In the end, whether this shared speakership will unify or completely split the 19th House of Representatives will depend on each of the 20 members' sound judgment, commitment to protect public interest and the ability to work together regardless of personal issues and political affiliations. But lawmakers have a record of unsound judgment, putting personal over public interest first and not getting past personal issues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jihad and the people of the world

Dear fellow humans on planet Earth: I am a Christian who wish to protest the attack on the honorable Elijah Mohammed as he is the supreme leader of the Muslim religion, just as Jesus Christ is the supreme leader of Christianity. Given the world has conceded to stop attacking Jesus Christ, why can't we do the same for Mohammed? The line of "doing unto others as you would have them do unto you" was crossed, which is why there is so much turmoil in the world over cartoon pictures. Genuine respect is a "reciprocal phenomenon" that we should all keep in mind to avoid the travesties we have just witnessed at the magazine and now throughout the world wherever there are Muslims.






The cartoon attack on Mohammed was an attack on the entire Muslim community and that was wrong and even the stereotyping of an entire group of people and their religion in a negative connotation. I don't condone the attacks and violent behavior but I do support the protest. Just imagine if the magazine was making fun of Jesus Christ. We might see very similar violent and terroristic reactions by extremists, even in America.

Making fun of the pope and people considered mortal in today's world is OK and accepted throughout the world but attacking the foundations and founders of the world's religions is not the way of the world, which is something the late and great Michael Jackson might say. I am humbly and respectfully asking all news media outlets to ban any attacks on Mohammed and Jesus in the future to end this silly cartoon fiasco that has caused so many deaths as more people have died in the name of religion than any plague or wars combined. The media outlets should be making fun of the terrorists and their jihad messages to better serve the world's anti-terrorism cause. The media should be educating everyone on why we must all join in to fight terrorism—not make fun of a religion. Make cartoons about some of the dead and living terrorists disappointing Mohammed but not Mohammed as he was not a jihadist or terrorist. We are one people on one world who should all work for one common cause—religious freedom—not a jihadist that wants to force everyone on planet Earth to be a Muslim or die. It is absolutely ridiculous!

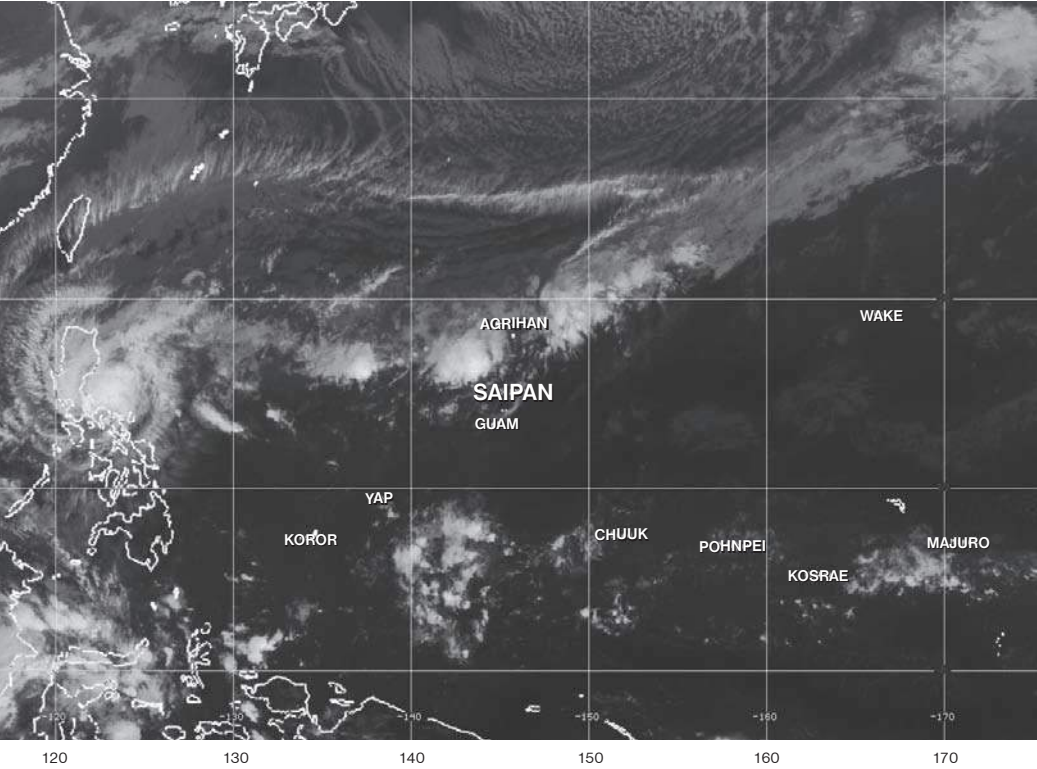
Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼79°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N160E to near Alamagan Island at 17N146E then continues to beyond 130E at 15N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 350 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough southeast of Yap extends northward from 2N142E to 7N142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 170 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Kosrae and southwest of Majuro between 4N and 7N from 166E to 171E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstoms	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲42	▼20
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲66	▼55
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼53
Manila	Showers	▲85	▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼57
New York	Rain	▲45	▼35
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼37
Paris	Ice	▲41	▼36
Pusan	Sunny	▲50	▼28
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼43
Salem	Showers	▲53	▼42
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲42	▼23
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼32



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
7:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
12:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:05 AM	4:51 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:59 AM	6:56 PM
Thursday	7:53 AM	7:58 PM
Friday	8:45 AM	8:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

\$18M operational subsidies released to American Samoa

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina released on Friday \$18 million remaining in grant assistance for fiscal year 2015 to the American Samoa government through the Office of Insular Affairs' Operations Grant Program. These

funds are what remained of the annual \$22.75 million subsidy needed to support the daily operations of the American Samoa government, the LBJ Tropical Medical Center, the American Samoa Community College, and the High Court of American Samoa. The purpose of this program

is to fund the difference between budget needs and local revenue and remains constant each year to promote self-sufficiency requiring American Samoa to absorb other costs such as inflation.

"These funds are critical to supporting the operating costs of the judiciary, the hospital,

and the public schools for the American Samoan government," said Kia'aina. "Interior has a long history with American Samoa and we are pleased to support Governor Lolo and the general public in this way."

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinat-

ing federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia,

the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Office of Insular Affairs mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. **(OIA)**

Seabees complete five Pohnpei projects in 3 months

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Unit 133, based out of Gulfport, Mississippi, completed five Civil Construction Action Detail projects on Pohnpei in three months. The projects included work at the FSMNOC swimming pool, Kolonia Elementary, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, Pohnlangas Dispensary, and Sokehs Dispensary. In addition they participated in several community outreach programs including tutoring and advising students in preparation for the

ASVAB test, and reading and face painting with kids at the Pohnpei Public Library.

All of the material and labor for the projects were funded by the U.S. Department of Defense. The materials used for the project were all bought locally at the cost of \$174,292.

On Jan. 7 and 8, ribbon cutting ceremonies were held at the FSMNOC swimming pool, Kolonia Elementary, and Pohnlangas Dispensary, to mark the handover of the completed projects to Pohnpei State. Gov.

John Ehsa attended the handover ceremony at the Kolonia Elementary and FSMNOC swimming pool. Representatives from Pohnpei State Department of Health were on hand for the turnover ceremony at the Pohnlangas Dispensary. Turnover ceremonies for the other two projects were held in December.

An additional benefit to the CCAD project is that eight local construction workers worked with the Seabees as apprentices. The apprentices learned new skills and made new friends dur-

ing the project. At the turnover ceremonies the Seabees talked about how they also learned from the apprentices and they valued the relationship.

At the FSMNOC swimming pool the Seabees built a new changing room.

The Kolonia Elementary project consisted of replacing the roof and ceiling tiles, and painting the inside and outside of the second and third grade building.

The Island Food Community of Pohnpei project involved the

replacement of the roof, all electrical wiring, plumbing fixtures and painting the interior and exterior walls.

The Sokehs and Pohnlangas dispensaries had new air conditioning units installed, and the interior and exterior walls painted.

On a rotating basis each state has an opportunity to propose

CCAD projects. These small civic construction projects are fully funded by the U.S. Department of Defense. In addition, there is a capacity building component, which allows local laborers to work one-on-one with the Seabees as apprentices at the construction sites. **(U.S. Embassy Kolonia)**

New limited-edition amenity tin kits taking off on United

CHICAGO—United Airlines is offering international premium-cabin customers a unique enhancement to their in-flight experience—specially designed amenity kits available through late spring.

Limited-edition commemorative tins are currently available and showcase United's global route network, the most comprehensive of any U.S. carrier. In early spring, United will introduce amenity kits featuring a PGA Tour theme.

Commemorative amenity tins

United Global First and United BusinessFirst customers on international flights departing the airline's seven mainland U.S. hubs and Honolulu receive special-edition amenity tins, each showcasing the skyline of London, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Beijing, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro, Dubai or Honolulu.

The commemorative tins, available through the end of March or while supplies last, contain Philosophy-brand skincare products and other items traditionally found in United's amenity kits, including comfortable socks, an eye mask, toothbrush, toothpaste, tissue and ear plugs.

United previously offered limited-edition amenity tins in 2014, showcasing the carrier's

mainland U.S. hubs. The set of domestic-location tins proved so popular with customers that United is now introducing the new global-location set.

Global First and BusinessFirst customers on international flights arriving in the United States continue to receive the airline's traditional amenity kits.

PGA Tour amenity kits

Beginning in April, on international flights departing and arriving in the United States, United will offer amenity kits with a PGA Tour theme. United is the official airline of the PGA Tour.

The kits, which come in the form of shoe bags, will include traditional amenity kit items plus tees, United-branded Bridgestone Golf balls and a promotional offer for a future Bridgestone Golf purchase.

The United-PGA Tour amenity kits will be available through the end of June or while supplies last.

Additionally, United and the PGA Tour offer MileagePlus members discounts on starting times and golf club rentals at properties within the PGA Tour's TPC Network—a collection of more than 30 world-class golf destinations primarily throughout North America—and discounts on the Tour Academy. **(United)**



Ribbon cutting at the FSMNOC swimming pool.

U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA



Third Graders at Kolonia Elementary served as the ribbon cutting committee.

U.S. EMBASSY KOLONIA



UNITED

United's 2015 limited-edition amenity tins showcase popular global destinations.

Business

Texas prison program aims to produce business-savvy inmates

CLEVELAND, Texas (AP)—Standing in a prison chow hall, Richard Chavez Jr. outlines his past: violent felon, former gang member, the fourth member of his family to go to prison. Then his future: owner of a mobile counseling youth service that goes where the troubled kids are.

Arching a tattooed eyebrow, Chavez credits an innovative program run out of the Cleveland Correctional Facility, about 50 miles northeast of Houston, with helping him develop the skills needed to run a business—from character-building and how to carry himself to writing a business plan and finding financing.

“Man, my life was just selfishness,” says Chavez, who is serving an eight-year sentence for aggravated assault. “That’s all my life was. I had a daughter, a beautiful little girl, and I couldn’t do it. I wasn’t the father I needed to be. I joined a gang. And, you know, it hurts my heart, to say that. But that was comfortable for me. That was life.”

The Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) is based on a philosophy that making inmates such as Chavez business savvy

will reduce the likelihood that they will end up back in prison. It emphasizes reforming behavior while also working on a broader goal of reducing the prison population.

With 1.5 million inmates, the U.S. has the world’s largest prison population. Costs are soaring at the federal and state levels.

In Texas, it costs about \$18,200 a year for each of the 150,000 inmates in a state prison.

Lawmakers in Washington are looking at ways to reduce prison costs, including trimming mandatory federal sentences and creating incentive programs for model inmates. PEP tackles the problem from a different perspective: What happens when inmates are released?

Since it began operating in 2004, the program has graduated more than 1,100 students. About 165 have opened businesses, and at least two are grossing more than \$1 million. Within 90 days of their release, nearly all the ex-inmates had found jobs. This year, the program is looking to expand to a prison near Dallas.

But that’s not the only way to measure success. PEP’s graduates have a recidivism rate of



less than 7 percent, compared with 23 percent of the overall prison population in Texas.

The cost to the state: nothing. Operating on about \$2 million from private donations, PEP uses a mix of permanent staff and volunteers, including Texas

SIDEBAR

Some key figures about PEP

The Houston-based Prison Entrepreneurship Program began operations in 2004 and operates now in the Cleveland Correctional Facility in Cleveland, Texas, with plans to open a second unit in a Dallas-area prison this year. Some facts and figures about the program since it began:

- Number of graduates: More than 1,100
- Number of classes: 22, with as many as 150 inmates

currently in each class

- Number businesses launched by inmates: 165
- Number of businesses grossing more than \$1 million: at least two

- Recidivism rate: Less than 7 percent, compared with a rate of 23 percent overall for Texas prisons
- Budget: \$2 million
- State funding: none. PEP is funded entirely on private donations.

business leaders.

In Washington, the Senate’s No. 2 Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, has introduced legislation, sponsored with Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., that would require the federal Bureau of Prisons to offer more such programs to inmates. After a visit last year to PEP’s Houston office, Cornyn called it as a model worth replicating.

All inmates within the Texas state prison system who have less than four years to serve and were not convicted of a sex crime are eligible for the program. Those who apply face a rigorous interview process. If selected, the inmates are transferred to the Cleveland facility.

In time, inmates essentially will become full-time business students. They will go through course work that is sufficiently demanding that, last year, Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business began awarding a certificate of entrepreneurship to each graduate. Inmates learn how to finance a business, how to market products and how to sell themselves and their stories.

But not before they learn

how to get along, and, in some cases, learn how to use a computer. With participants serving sentences that range from a few years to more than 20, tech skills vary greatly.

To break down prison cliques and lingering negativity, the program co-opts the culture. The class gives itself a nickname—“The Transcendent 22,” for example. They, the staff, and the regular volunteers also get “sweet names.” Bert Smith, CEO of the Houston-based program, is “Chocolate Truffles.” Some of the classmates are “Humpty Dumpty,” “Pringles” and “Instant Potatoes.”

Arturo Martinez Jr.—sweet name “Selena Gomez”—was convicted of aggravated assault and escape charges. He got his GED while in prison, and “I thought I was set,” the 27-year-old said.

But he wanted more and was admitted to PEP.

The classes forced him to look internally and focus on the flaws in his personality. This was nothing like memorizing for the GED.

He was critiqued by his peers. Classmates told him they liked

In this photo taken Dec. 12, 2014, prison inmate Nicholas Paz, center, dances down a line of his classmates in the Prison Entrepreneurship Program, or PEP, right, and program sponsors, in Cleveland, Texas.

him, but they also said they found him manipulative and self-centered. “You start finding things out about yourself you didn’t know,” he said.

There are also exercises designed to help inmates put their life in perspective.

On a day when volunteers visit the program, inmates in dark blue jumpsuits and business leaders dressed for work stand on one side of the room, behind a blue line. Smith or another PEP leader reads out a series of personal characteristics such as, “you were raised by a single parent” or “you did drugs.”

For each one that applies, participants step toward the line. By the end of the exercise, inmates and business leaders may stand shoulder to shoulder, close to the line. The idea is to dissuade them of the idea that who they are can prevent them from succeeding in business.

Not everything is quite this serious.

There are musical interludes. One day, a DJ plays the “The Chicken Dance” and Smith playfully orders inmates to find a business volunteer to dance with. They do, locking arms and twirling in a circle while clucking at one another.

“Heyyyy,” inmates shout.

After a comfort level is established and computer skills are locked in, the program intensifies to 40 hours a week, focusing on business skills.

Paired with a volunteer, inmates work to develop a business idea, determine pricing, financing and realistic growth rates. There are lessons on business jargon, how to sell, the importance of a five-year projection and so on. The process culminates with a two-day business plan contest, where inmates pitch their ideas to volunteer judges. One inmate is selected the class winner.

This is how Chavez, “Sweet Sugar,” decided to become a youth counseling entrepreneur.

PEP volunteers encouraged him to make his own story part of his pitch. They helped him find research that showed youth counseling was a potential growth industry in the Houston area. (None of the inmates can use the Internet, so volunteers often provide market data.) Making himself mobile, going to wherever the kids need counseling, was Chavez’s tweak.

“Off the Streets Youth Counseling” was born.

Swiss franc’s staggering ascent to be felt far and wide

LONDON (AP)—A 30 percent swing in a blink of an eye is not uncommon in the stock market. In the world of currencies, it can seem as rare as Halley’s Comet.

But that’s what happened to the Swiss franc on Thursday—a stunning move that is likely to hurt the Swiss economy, inject uncertainty in financial markets and even darken the global outlook.

Within minutes of the Swiss National Bank’s announcement it was ditching a policy to limit the rise of the currency, the franc had rocketed by about a third against the euro and the dollar. Unprecedented, said analysts.

Though it has since shed some of those gains, the Swiss franc remains sharply higher and that spells a host of problems.

The stock market said it all. Shares on the Zurich exchange have fallen another 6 percent Friday following the previous day’s 9 percent slump. That’s a clear indication investors have taken fright at the worsening outlook for Switzerland’s exporters and economy.

The higher franc makes Swiss products, like chocolate, pharmaceuticals, and watches more expensive in the international marketplace.

According to Morgan Stanley, 85 percent of Swiss com-

pany sales come from outside Switzerland. Corporate giants like food maker Nestle and drug maker Novartis make almost all their money in foreign markets.

A stronger franc also makes the country, which features some of the world’s finest ski slopes, more expensive to visit. It’s unlikely, however, to dent the plans of the world’s executives and government leaders as they gather next week at the World Economic Forum in the ski resort of Davos.

The picture is potentially bleak on another economic front. As in the eurozone, prices in Switzerland are already falling modestly and there are fears that may turn into a sustained decline, so-called deflation, as a stronger currency makes imports cheaper and depresses economic activity.

Falling prices may sound good in principle, but when sustained they can choke the life out of an economy by encouraging consumers and businesses to delay spending in the hope of bargains down the line.

Thursday’s staggering rise in the Swiss franc had an immediate impact on trading around the globe.

Holders of Swiss francs made heaps of money. Many investors and brokerage firms,

though, have been knocked sideways. Already two brokerage firms, London-based Alpari and New Zealand’s Global Brokers NZ, have announced they have suffered catastrophic losses and will have to close down. FXCM, a New York-based currency broker, has also warned that it “may be in breach of some regulatory capital requirements” after its clients experienced significant losses. On Friday, FXCM said it was getting a \$300 million rescue loan from financial firm Leucadia National Corp.

Whatever else happens, for many in the markets Switzerland’s move belies its image of a safe and reliable place to invest money.

“The once-assumed ‘safety’ of the Swiss franc is eradicated,” said James Stanton, head of foreign exchange at deVere Group, which has 80,000 clients globally.

The primary reason behind the Swiss National Bank’s decision to stop keeping a lid on the franc against the euro is that the European Central Bank is widely tipped to next week back a big stimulus program. That will put more euros in circulation, further diluting their value. To maintain its cap on the franc, the Swiss National Bank would likely have to splash out more to defend the franc.

Nation

Obama seeking tax increases on wealthy to help middle class

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will call for increasing taxes on the wealthiest Americans by raising the capital gains rate and eliminating a tax break on inheritances, then using the revenue to fund new tax credits and other cost-saving measures for the middle class.

The president's proposals are likely to be cheered by the Democratic Party's liberal base, but the tax increases are all but certain to be non-starters with the new Republican majority on Capitol Hill.

Obama will announce the tax proposals Tuesday night in his State of the Union address. Senior administration officials disclosed details Saturday on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the proposals by name ahead of the president.

The president's address—his first to a Republican-led Congress—will also include calls for lawmakers to make community college free for many students, increase paid leave for workers and enact broad cybersecurity rules.

The centerpiece of the president's tax proposal is an increase in the capital gains rate on couples making more than \$500,000 per year to 28 percent, the same level as under President Ronald Reagan. The top capital gains rate has already been raised from 15 percent to 23.8 percent during Obama's presidency.

Obama also wants to close what the administration is calling the "Trust Fund Loophole," a change that would require estates to pay capital gains taxes on securities at the time they're inherited. Officials said the overwhelming impact of the change would be on the top 1 percent of income earners.

While GOP leaders have said they share Obama's desire to reform the nation's complicated tax code, the party has long been opposed to many of the proposals the president will outline Tuesday. For example, most Republicans want to lower or eliminate the capital gains tax and similarly want to end taxes on estates, not expand them.

"More Washington tax hikes and spending is the same, old top-down approach we've come to expect from President Obama that hasn't worked," a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, Michael Steel,

said in a statement Saturday night. "Republicans are offering better solutions focused on helping small businesses grow and hire, and helping families improve their lives."

Administration officials

pointed to a third proposal from the president as one they hope Republicans would support: a fee on the roughly 100 U.S. financial firms with assets of more than \$50 billion. Officials said the fee is similar to a pro-

posal from former Republican Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, who led the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee. Camp's plan, however, was part of a larger proposal to lower the overall corporate income tax rate.

Police: 2 dead, 1 wounded in central Florida mall shooting

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man who had "several pockets full of ammunition" targeted his wife in a shooting that killed two people at a mall food court where the woman worked, police said.

Authorities said the Saturday morning shooting happened about a half hour before the mall was to open to customers. Jose Garcia-Rodriguez, 57, of Palm Bay, died at a hospital following an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound at Melbourne Square Mall, said Cmdr. Vince Pryce of Melbourne Police.

The man's 33-year-old wife, Idanerys Garcia-Rodriguez, was hospitalized with a gunshot wound and was in good condi-

tion late Saturday, Pryce said. A police statement later identified her as a worker at the mall's food court.

"The survivor is the intended victim," he said.

Officers said they responded to reports of multiple gunshots around 9:30 a.m., when about 100 people were in the mall getting stores ready for a 10 a.m. opening to shoppers.

"We were still hearing shots when the first officers arrived on scene," Pryce said.

Officers evacuated the mall, assisting some employees who had locked themselves in closets when they heard gunfire, Pryce said.

Another man died in the

shooting. His name was not released, and Pryce said his relationship to the Garcias remained under investigation and was unknown late Saturday. No one else in the mall was killed or wounded, police later said.

When officers found the three victims, Garcia "had several pockets full of ammunition," Pryce said. Police subsequently said investigators recovered three handguns at the site, along with the ammunition, believed to belong to the suspect.

"We believe this may stem from a domestic violence incident," he said.

Mall officials posted a statement to Facebook, saying the mall would remain closed until

further notice while police continued their investigation. Pryce said authorities planned for the mall to reopen Sunday.

Local television news broadcasts showed yellow police tape stretched across a mall entrance and parking lot.

Donna Evans of Melbourne said she was in the food court when she heard gunfire about 20 feet to 25 feet away.

"We had just gotten our food to sit down by Starbucks and Chik-fil-A, and you just hear the 'pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop,' and you just drop everything and your body just makes you run," Evans told Florida Today (<http://on.flatoday.com/1KS3m3jr>).

Police: Revenge prompted man to set fire that killed 6

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A man set a Pittsburgh-area fire that killed six people last fall, four of them children, because he wanted to get revenge on someone in the house, according to authorities.

Ryan Williams, 24, was charged Friday with six counts of criminal homicide, arson and burglary in the Oct. 18 fire in McKeesport. The blaze killed 55-year-old Ronald Egenlauf Sr., his 27-year-old daughter-in-law Hope Jordan, and her four children, ages 2 through 7.

Detectives allege in a criminal complaint that Williams set the fire because he partially blamed the fire's lone survivor, Keith Egenlauf, for his incarceration in a theft case. Keith Egenlauf was the older man's son and Jordan's husband.

According to the criminal complaint, one witness quoted Williams as saying he went into the unlocked house and "lit a roll of toilet paper on fire and threw it on the couch." That witness also quoted Williams as saying "I just did some crazy (expletive). I'm out on my porch waiting for the fire trucks," on a phone call during which the witness could hear sirens in the background.

Another witness reported begin awakened early on the day after the fire by Williams, who allegedly told him that he had just "lit Keith's house on fire, and if anybody asks, I

was here all night," the criminal complaint said.

One of the witnesses told investigators that Williams began to cry after finding out from news reports that children had died in the fire, saying he believed Keith Egenlauf lived there alone.

Asked Friday whether he knew children were inside the house, Williams told WPXI-TV, "No, I did not," but he declined further comment. Court documents don't list an attorney for him.

Ronald Egenlauf, who was partially paralyzed and used a wheelchair, was found dead on the first floor. The other victims were found in a second-floor bedroom.

Authorities said Keith Egenlauf and his wife had initially escaped the flames but raced back inside in hopes of rescuing their family. Keith Egenlauf was left with burns over half his body.

Dawn McPherson, 37, Jordan's sister, said Williams deserves no mercy if convicted.

"I hope he can't sleep at night," McPherson said. "I hope he's haunted for the rest of his life. I hope God gives him everything he deserves."

Another relative, Lisa Lake-nan, said family members were still struggling with the deaths.

"We just can't wrap our minds around how someone decides to burn a house down with seven people in it," she said.

Phoenix woman dies after giving birth to quadruplets



This photo provided by Nicole Todman shows one of quadruplets born prematurely to Erica Morales at a Phoenix hospital on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015.

PHOENIX (AP)—A woman died hours after giving birth to quadruplets at a Phoenix hospital, a close friend of the family said Saturday.

Erica Morales, 36, never got to hold her newborns before she passed away early Friday morning after a C-section surgery at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, Nicole Todman said.

"They were transporting her

from the surgery to whatever room, and she was still unconscious at that point. So, no, she never got to see them," Todman said.

Morales was about seven months into her pregnancy when she delivered three girls and one boy Thursday, according to Todman. She has been one of the few able to visit the premature newborns and said

they are doing well.

"They're beautiful," Todman said. "They have tubes in their mouths and their noses. They've got little monitors and wires all over their body."

The infants will likely remain hospitalized for the next two months while doctors help them to get stronger and each reach a goal weight of 5 pounds, Todman said. Currently, they

all weigh between just above 2 pounds to just above 3 pounds, she said.

Morales was initially hospitalized for high blood pressure. Complications ensued before Morales was taken into surgery, Todman said. She does not know what led to her passing.

"I don't even care to know," Todman said. "It doesn't matter why. She's still gone."

Asia

Volunteer dies in accident after pope's Mass in PH

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP)—A church volunteer died after she was hit by scaffolding following a Mass celebrated Saturday by Pope Francis in the central Philippine city of Tacloban, police said.

The 27-year-old woman was a volunteer with Catholic Relief Services and was among about 150,000 people who attended the rain-drenched religious ceremonies close to Tacloban's seaside airport, said regional police chief Asher Dolina.

The pope visited Tacloban to comfort victims of a deadly 2013 typhoon.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the pope was informed about the woman's death after returning to Manila. The pope cut short his visit to Tacloban because of an approaching storm that brought rain and strong winds to the city.

Francis asked his aides "to investigate how he could show his own suffering in solidarity with the (woman's) family," Lombardi said.

ABS-CBN television cited the medical director of the hospital where the woman was taken as saying she died from

a skull fracture.

Local media reported the scaffolding was used as a loudspeaker platform and was toppled by a sudden gust of wind.

Meanwhile, a private airplane skidded off the runway at the airport in Tacloban City on Saturday before taking off a few moments after Pope Francis' flight left the area.

Rodante Joya, deputy director of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, said in a dzBB interview that the plane lost control due to the gusty winds brought by storm "Amang."

The plane carried Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, and Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairperson Francis Tolentino, who witnessed the incident, said in a separate interview that Ochoa and Coloma escaped the accident unhurt.

The plane's nose hit the grassy part outside the runway and smoke was seen rising from the aircraft.

Fire fighters rushed to the scene shortly after the mishap. *(With Philippine Star)*



A private jet carrying several Philippine Cabinet officials who accompanied Pope Francis to Leyte rests on the side of the runway after it blew its front tires during takeoff following the pope's plane and veered off the runway in Tacloban, Philippines, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015. AP

Sea conditions prevent divers from reaching AirAsia fuselage

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)—High waves and strong currents in the Java Sea again prevented Indonesian navy divers from accessing the fuselage and what is believed to be the cockpit from the AirAsia plane that crashed three weeks ago, officials said.

A team of 15 navy divers tried to get to the wreckage to examine it and calculate its weight, but failed to reach it due to the unfavorable conditions, said Suryadi Bambang Supriyadi, director of operations for Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency.

Indonesian survey ships have located at least nine big objects, including the jet's fuselage, what is believed to be the cockpit and an engine, Supriyadi said. The fuselage is sitting on the seabed at a depth of 28 meters (92 feet).

The 30-meter-long (100-foot-long) fuselage and an attached wing were sighted Wednesday. Divers attempted to reach the wreckage Thursday and Friday, but were turned back because of the rough sea conditions.

Authorities believe many of the bodies are still inside the fuselage. There were 162 people aboard Flight 8501 when it crashed into the sea Dec. 28 en route from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-

largest city, to Singapore. Only 51 bodies have been recovered so far.

The head of the search and rescue agency, Henry Bambang Soelistyo, said Friday that the fuselage would have to be lifted because of the divers' inability to reach it. This will be done by either using floating balloons, as the tail section was lifted earlier in the week, or cranes from tugboats. Soelistyo did not say when the operation would start.

Divers, however, still need to reach the wreckage area. The wreckage that appears to be the cockpit was located by sonar imagery about 500 meters (yards) from the fuselage and was partly embedded in the mud.

"What we have so far is only a silhouette of the wreckage," Supriyadi said. "We need to deploy our divers to identify whether it's the jet's cockpit or something else."

He also said the divers have been told to retrieve the bodies of the pilot and the co-pilot if they are able to find them in the cockpit.

Bad weather is a suspected factor in the crash. The plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders were retrieved earlier in the week and will be key to learning the cause.

RAJANGANAYA, Sri Lanka

(AP) -- It's midmorning and hundreds of people are squeezed under a banyan tree's shady canopy to have blood drawn by just three nurses, working assembly-line fast. Others wait outside this dusty rural health center to get their vitals taken and give urine samples.

Most of the 1,000 villagers have come here on foot and have stood for hours under the hot sun—not because they feel sick, but out of fear. They want to know if they will be the next victims of a mysterious kidney disease that has killed thousands of farmers in Sri Lanka's rice basket.

Many have watched neighbors and loved ones—some only in their 30s—quickly succumb to deaths after their kidneys gave out. In the worst-hit villages, it kills as many as 10 people every month. No one

knows why.

"In some cases, you only know if a certain person died of kidney disease after the autopsy," says Kalyani Samarasinghe, 47, standing outside the health center with a handful of medical papers and a cotton ball taped to her arm. "If you get a pain in the stomach or something, then you think: Is it the kidney?"

The disease has killed up to 20,000 people over the past 20 years and sickened another 70,000 to 400,000. It has expanded from two districts to seven in the North Central province's dry zone, where farming was transformed after the introduction of modern techniques in the 1960s and '70s. No cases have been detected elsewhere in the country, and research has failed to determine the cause.

Some blame the water, heavy use of pesticides and fertilizer.

Others wonder if it's something in the food, or whether heavy metals or toxic algae could be the source. Villagers have been told to give up lake fish, aluminum cooking utensils and illicit home-brewed alcohol, but no one's sure if any of it helps.

Dr. Rajeeva Dassanayake, a kidney specialist at the area's largest hospital in Anuradhapura, has come to the screening to try to calm the crowd.

"You need not fear and flee from this place," he says. "There are a lot of things being said by many people. Until they have finished fighting each other and come up with an answer, we can say nothing."

Similar diseases are wiping out thousands of farmers in parts of Central America, India and Egypt. In hard-hit Nicaragua and El Salvador, some believe agrochemicals are the problem, while

others think years of prolonged dehydration in the baking heat is shutting workers' organs down.

In Sri Lanka, a report published by the World Health Organization two years ago found kidney disease in 15 percent of adults across three affected districts. More women were affected overall, but men over 39 years old were more severely sickened. Elevated cadmium and pesticide residues were detected in urine, leading the authors to surmise they may be damaging patients' kidneys over time, in combination with other factors such as arsenic.

Water—the source widely suspected as the culprit—came up clean. But the WHO study's Geneva-based author, Shanthi Mendis, says it could still be playing a key role when combined with other elements. She adds that the government's top two priorities should be supplying safe drinking water to residents and regulating the use of agrochemicals.

The WHO report documented raised levels of cadmium and lead in certain plants and vegetables, such as lotus root and tobacco. Some question whether these heavy metals could be leaching into the soil and groundwater from pesticides and fertilizers, which have been found to have high levels of cadmium in previous studies. The Agriculture Ministry says samples are regularly tested and come back within permitted limits, which are much stricter than those in neighboring countries.

22 confirmed dead in tugboat capsizing in eastern China

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities confirmed 22 people dead in the capsizing of a tugboat with an international team on a test voyage in eastern China, after rescuers dragged the overturned vessel to shallow waters and scoured it Saturday.

Four Singaporeans, an Indian, an Indonesian, a Japanese and a Malaysian were among the dead in the accident on the Yangtze River, and the 14 other victims were Chinese, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said.

The newly built, 30-meter (98-foot) long Wanshenzhou 67 was on a test voyage Thursday in the river's Fubei Channel in Jiangsu province when it suddenly turned over.

The ship's owner, parts suppliers and engineers were among the 25 people aboard for the test.

Three people were rescued, all Chinese, including one man identified as an interpreter who was freed when rescuers cut through the bottom of the boat's hull early Friday—a full

14 hours after it went down.

An official at the Jiangsu maritime search and rescue center, who declined to give his name, confirmed that 22 people were dead.

Swift currents had hampered the operation, and it was not until Saturday morning when rescue teams were able to pull the vessel to the surface and to shallow waters for a thorough search inside.

The 368-ton ship was built by Anhui Bengbu Shenzhou Machinery Co. Ltd.

World

Charlie Hebdo protests leave at least 10 dead in Niger

CAIRO (AP)—At least 10 people have been killed in violent protests in the West African nation of Niger over the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo's depiction of the Prophet Muhammad, the country's president said.

President Mahamadou Issoufou said that five deaths were reported after demonstrations in Niamey, the capital, on Saturday. Another five people died Friday in the town of Zinder following prayer services there. The victims were inside churches and bars that were set ablaze, he said.

The violence erupted after Charlie Hebdo published its first issue since the Jan. 7 attack on its headquarters by Islamic extremists that left 12 people dead.

The magazine, which had long antagonized Muslims with its depictions of the prophet, carried a cover cartoon depicting Muhammad holding a "Je Suis Charlie" sign.

According to mainstream Islamic tradition, any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad—even a respectful one—is considered blasphemous.

While many Muslims have expressed disgust at the deadly assault on the magazine's Paris office, many are also deeply offended by the magazine's cartoons lampooning Muhammad.

In Iran, the government has



A Yemeni man holds a poster, while chanting slogans during a protest against caricatures published in French magazine Charlie Hebdo in front of the French Embassy in Sanaa, Yemen, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015.

publicly condemned both the attack on Charlie Hebdo and the magazine itself, calling the continued publishing of Muhammad caricatures "provocative" and an insult to Islam.

Iranian judicial authorities

on Saturday banned a daily newspaper for publishing a front-page headline that allegedly indicated support for Charlie Hebdo.

Elsewhere in the Muslim world on Saturday, Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani condemned Charlie Hebdo, calling the newest cover image

of Prophet Muhammad a blasphemous and irresponsible act. "Freedom of expression should be used in a way to boost understanding between the reli-

gions," he said in a statement issued by the presidential palace.

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi also issued a statement of condemnation, warning that, "offensive words might lead to further bloodshed."

He also reiterated his condemnation of the attacks on innocent victims in Paris, saying that terrorism, "has nothing to do with Islam in any way."

Protesters also demonstrated in front of the French Embassy in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa, as well as in the Pakistani city of Karachi.

In Egypt, the Islamist Noor Party denounced the latest Charlie Hebdo cover on its French-language Facebook page.

"Just as the Noor Party rejects the assault on civilians and the negative effects it has for all Muslims of Europe, it also rejects this barbaric, irresponsible act under the name of freedom of expression," the statement declared.

In Gaza City, the capital of the Gaza Strip, unknown vandals scrawled graffiti on the walls of the French Cultural Center. In addition to statements praising the Prophet Muhammad and declaring him off-limits for ridicule or satire, the vandals also wrote: "To hell, to a miserable destiny, French journalists."

Suspects held in Greece as European terror crackdown widens

BRUSSELS (AP)—With Europe on edge, soldiers fanned out to guard possible terror targets in Belgium Saturday while police in Greece detained at least two suspects as part of a widening counterterrorism dragnet across the continent.

In France, one of the terrorists behind last week's attacks in Paris was given a secret burial as authorities sought to head off glorification of terrorism and civil unrest amid a groundswell of popular antagonism across Europe against radical Islam, and protests against caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad across the Muslim world that have underscored vast cultural differences.

For the first time in three decades, authorities used paratroopers to reinforce police in Belgium's cities, guarding buildings within the Jewish quarter of the port city of Antwerp and some Belgian embassies. The move came a day after anti-terror raids netted dozens of suspects across Western Europe and increased anxiety across big swathes of the region.

Belgium has increased its terror warning to 3, the second-highest, following the anti-terror raids of Thursday which left two suspects dead. Police believe the cell they largely dismantled was on the verge of a major attack.

Authorities said that even

though they had broken up the alleged terror cell they were still looking for some suspects abroad and briefly hoped Greece could have clinched the breakthrough by detaining one remaining key suspect.

A Greek police official earlier Saturday said the men were detained separately in Athens, some 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles) from Brussels, and included an individual who at first sight matched the description of a key terror suspect in Belgium.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the ongoing investigation.

After careful vetting in Brussels of ID information, federal

magistrate Eric Van der Sypt said there was no positive match with any individual they sought and said "they had nothing to do with the Belgian case."

With some suspects still at large, it was an uneasy calm in Belgium, and paratroopers on the street did not necessarily help.

"You know, when people see the soldiers on streets they will get scared. That could make more problems than solutions," said student Greg Verhoeven in Antwerp.

France tried to stave off unrest there when Said Kouachi, one of the gunmen who attacked the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, was quietly buried.

In new blow, Syrian opposition shuns Russia peace initiative

BEIRUT (AP)—A Russian initiative to host peace talks this month between the Syrian government and its opponents appears to be unraveling as prominent Syrian opposition figures shun the prospective negotiations amid deep distrust of Moscow and concerns the talks hold no chance of success.

The faltering effort suggests that even after four years and at least 220,000 people killed, the antagonists in Syria's civil war are far from burning themselves out and will likely keep fighting for a more decisive battlefield advantage before any real talks can take place.

The planned meetings in Moscow, scheduled to start Jan. 26, would be the first on Syria since a U.N.-sponsored conference in Geneva collapsed early last year after making no headway.

But the Syrian tableau has changed dramatically since then.

President Bashar Assad faces growing resentment among his supporters in the wake of bloody defeats, while his main patrons, Russia and Iran, are feeling the pinch

from the global plunge in oil prices. Syria's mainstream opposition—political and armed—teeters on the brink of irrelevance, and the extremist Islamic State group has seized control of large chunk of northeastern Syria and neighboring Iraq.

The United States also has joined the fray, carrying out airstrikes with its allies against Islamic State group militants while leaving Assad's forces untouched.

Washington has been conspicuously absent from the diplomatic shuffle toward Moscow, unwilling to spend its political capital to cajole the main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, to attend peace talks that have limited hopes of success.

United Nations envoy Staffan de Mistura is working a parallel peace track, trying to slow the carnage in Syria through a plan that calls for "freezing the conflict" in the northern city of Aleppo as a building block for a wider solution to the war. That plan faces its own hurdles, and has yet to gain much traction.

Lawyer: Mexico city allows same-sex wedding after long fight

MEXICALI, Mexico (AP)—The first same-sex marriage was held Saturday in this city on the border with California, after officials ended an 18-month fight that led to a Mexican Supreme Court order to permit the wedding, a lawyer for the couple said.

Attorney Jose Luis Marquez Saavedra had filed a complaint Friday against Mexicali officials after authorities again blocked the marriage despite the high court ruling. The lawyer said the city let Victor Fernando Urias Amparo and Victor Manuel Aguirre Espinoza wed Saturday and he expressed satis-

faction that their rights had been upheld.

Urias also said he was satisfied the marriage had been allowed to go forward, telling local reporters that the case showed that "when people work together, this works."

Mexican federal courts have issued rulings sympathetic to same-sex marriage, but for the most part that has not translated into legalization at the local level.

The country does not have a single national civil code but rather one each for the 31 states and the Federal District of Mex-

ico City. Thirty of those entities, including Baja California state, where Mexicali is, do not allow same-sex marriage. Only the capital and the northern state of Coahuila permit such unions.

When Urias and Aguirre first tried to marry in Mexicali in 2013, the local Civil Registry rejected them, saying Mexico's constitution recognizes only unions of opposite-sex couples. They then went to the Supreme Court and got an injunction authorizing their nuptials.

Civil Registry officials rejected their petition again, saying bureaucratic procedures

had not been followed. On a third try in November, the registry said the couple had failed to attend mandatory pre-marriage counseling. Then this month, City Hall told them they couldn't attend those sessions.

Saavedra then filed his complaint Friday accusing the mayor, two municipal workers and a state employee of failing to fulfill their public duties.

In Latin America, Argentina and Uruguay are the only countries that recognize same-sex marriages. Fifteen other nations around the world also have legalized such unions.

Health & Fitness

Personal Trainer

Getting past your plateau

Some ways to achieve a common fitness goal – being able to do more situps, pushups or pullups.

Basic strategy

- Do easy variations of exercise; progress to harder ones
- Then go back to conventional version to see your improvement

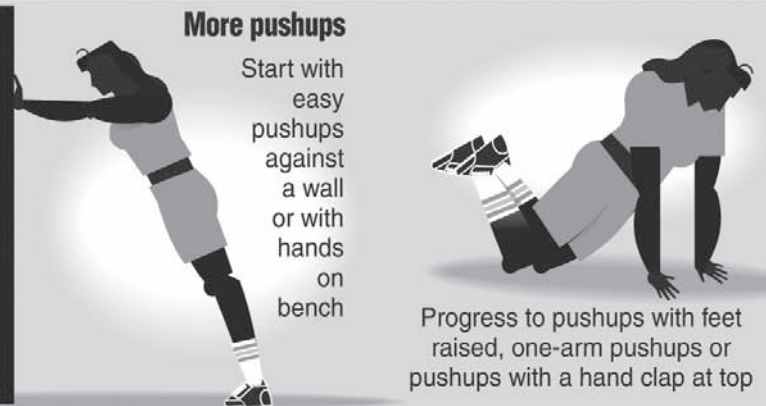
More situps



Do partial situps at first

Progress to full situps, then add light weights, then do with knees bent, then with legs lifted

More pushups



Start with easy pushups against a wall or with hands on bench

Progress to pushups with feet raised, one-arm pushups or pushups with a hand clap at top

More pullups

Start with pullups with a helper partially lifting you



Progress to standard pullups, then with hands close together, then with hands spread

Source: Body Results newsletter
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Cancer patients testing drugs on mouse ‘avatars’



AP
In this Sept. 19, 2014, photo, Charles Cook, manager of facilities and operations at Champions Oncology, displays mouse carrying a cancer patient’s tumor graft under its skin in a lab in Baltimore.

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Scientists often test drugs in mice. Now some cancer patients are doing the same—with the hope of curing their own disease.

They are paying a private lab to breed mice that carry bits of their own tumors so treatments can be tried first on the customized rodents. The idea is to see which drugs might work best on a specific person’s specific cancer.

The mice may help patients make what can be very hard choices under difficult circumstances. Studies can suggest a certain chemotherapy may help, but patients wonder whether it will work for them. Often there’s more than one choice, and if the first one fails, a patient may

be too sick to try another. So hundreds of people have made “mouse avatars” over the last few years to test chemotherapies.

“What I’m doing is personalized cancer treatment. It’s the wave of the future,” said Eileen Youtie, a Miami woman using mice to guide care for her hard-to-treat form of breast cancer. “Part of this is trying to eliminate chemos that are not going to work on me. I don’t want to waste time taking them and poison my body.”

But there are no guarantees the mice will help.

“There’s not a lot of science” to say how well this works, and it should be considered highly experimental, said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, deputy chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society.

There are some early encour-

aging reports, he said. One study of 70 patients found the mice generally reflected how well patients responded to various drugs. But there is no evidence that using mice is any better than care based on medical guidelines or the gene tests that many patients get now to help pick drugs.

Mouse testing costs \$10,000 or more, and insurers don’t cover it. It takes several months, so patients usually have to start therapy before mouse results are in.

“I do see promise, but it’s very time-consuming, it’s very expensive. For the average patient, standard care is going to be the way to go,” said Alana Welm, a cancer researcher at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. She gave a talk on mouse avatars last week at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. It was the third major cancer meeting this year to feature work on customized cancer mice.

Several labs breed these mice but the main supplier to patients has been Champions Oncology, a company based in Hackensack, New Jersey, that also operates in London, Tel Aviv and Singapore. About 7,000 mice are kept in a Baltimore lab with six rooms that resemble stock rooms of a shoe store, with tall shelves that hold row upon row of plastic cages labeled with each cancer patient’s name.

Most mice are white-haired females with beady red eyes, but others are hairless. Some live alone while others climb over one another and sleep in small piles. All have easy access to food and water, and many bear signs of the tumor graft - a shaved portion of hair, an incision scar and a lump growing off one side.

Patients have a tumor sample sent to Champions, which charges \$1,500 to bank it, plus \$2,500 for each drug tested in groups of mice implanted with bits of the tumor. Most patients try three to five drugs and spend \$10,000 to \$12,000, said Champions’ chief medical officer, Dr. Angela Davies.

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Lucinda Rosa Borja Roberto-Sablan

Born to life on October 22, 1959 and was called to her Eternal rest at the age of 55 on January 9, 2015.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Parents: †Andres Ada and †Maria Borja Roberto
Parents-in-law: †Vicente Atalig and †Carmen Manglona Sablan
Paternal Grandparents: †Juan Sablan / †Engracia Ada Roberto “Robat”
Maternal Grandparents: †Agueda Santos (Chungi / Lencho) and †Jose Castro Borja “Tuhu”
Sister: †Elizabeth Virginia Roberto Ordenez
Brothers-in-law: †Jose Manglona Sablan, †Martin M. Sablan
Paternal Aunts: †Rosa Sablan and †Ana Sablan Roberto
Maternal Aunts and Uncles: †Trinidad Borja / †Juan Atalig Deleon Guerrero, †Cresencia Borja / †Felix Cruz Villagomez, †Andalecio Santos Borja, †Margarita Santos Borja, †Manuel Miyasaki Babauta, †Carmen Borja / †Jesus DLG Ichihara, †Gabriella Santos Borja, †Ana Borja Roberto, †Teresita Borja / †Vicente C. Lizama

Her Memories Will Forever Live In the Hearts of Her:

Husband: **Crispin Manglona Sablan**
Children: **Christopher Roberto & Nicole C. Sablan** (Christian, Maria, Isabella and Adriana)
Crystal Roberto Sablan (Crispin Isaiah, Seth, Lucinda Amor)

Lucinda’s Siblings:

Joseph Borja Roberto
David Borja Roberto (Dominic Palacios / Stephanie Samson [Sonjah, Dominic], Yerma Roberto/Robert Camacho – [Hayden, Mia], Ashley Boyer Roberto, David Boyer Roberto, Jr.)
Andres Borja Roberto, Jr. / Dorothy Pangelinan Roberto (Andrew, Josbua, Aiyisha, Austin, Jeremiah)
Celina Borja Roberto / Franklin Reyes Babauta (William – [Jacob, Elitjab], Francine, Kolina, Franklin, Jr.)
Raymond Borja Roberto / Zenaida Castro Javier (Charay Sasamoto, Andrea, Nathaniel)

Reared Sisters:

Barbara DLG. McDuff, Julie Roberto Inos

Brother in Law:

Bartholomew Ordenez (Gerard R. Indalecio / Lealynn Valdez – [Damian], Gemma Roberto Ordenez, Jaycee Roberto Ordenez, Arjay Ordenez)

Lucinda’s in-laws: Vincent M. / Bobbie DLG. Sablan, Bert M. / Chechang Sanchez Sablan and children, Angie Sablan / Jerry Reyes and children, Juan M. / Bobbie Torres Sablan and children, Henry M. / Lulu Sablan and children, Fermina A. Sablan and children, Liana Sablan / Richard U. Hofschneider and children, Diego M. / Elaine Sablan and children

Godparents:

Joaquin T. Salas and Doris S. Nuique

Godchildren:

Nora Agulto Castro, Patrick Camacho Castro, Sean DLG. McDuff, Matthew Blanco, Jessica Castro Sonoda, Angel Aldan Demapan, Ayisha Pangelinan Roberto, Ken Lizama, Isabella Heras, Joseph Aldan, Lucy Ann Santos, Eddie Valdez, Eugene Louis F. Park, Phillip Roberto

Paternal Uncle:

Felipe Ada / Ket Roberto

Maternal Aunts:

Jacoba Borja / Carmelito (Lito) Asuncion, Primitiva Apatang Babauta

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at 6:00AM at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Night Rosary is being said at 7:00PM at Mt. Carmel Cathedral until Saturday, January 17, 2015.

On Tuesday, January 20, 2015 her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Services at 7:30AM to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed immediately by Interment Services at the Veteran’s Cemetery in Marpi, Saipan.

Thank you for your prayers,

Crispin M. Sablan and Children



Life & Style

Cosby takes stage despite protest over sex-assault claims

DENVER (AP)—About 100 people chanting “Rape is not a joke!” and “No means no!” protested outside a theater in Denver before comedian Bill Cosby took the stage on Saturday, but his first of two performances of the night went on without a disturbance.

Earlier in the day, a woman held a news conference at a nearby hotel to accuse him of sexually assaulting her in 1986.

Beth Ferrier said during the gathering called by Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred that Cosby put drugs in her coffee when she went to see one of his shows in Denver.

“I cannot tell you how horrific of a feeling that is,” she said, adding that the next thing she remembered was waking up hours later in the back of her car “practically naked.”

Ferrier, 55, has said previously she was assaulted by Cosby. She went public on June 23, 2005, alleging that as a model visiting New York in the early 1980s, she met Cosby and they had a brief affair.

The 77-year-old comedian is facing sexual assault accusations from at least 15 women,

with some of the claims dating back decades. He has denied the allegations through his attorney and has never been charged with a crime. A statement from Cosby’s publicist was not immediately available Saturday night.

Cosby was welcomed to the stage during his first show with a standing ovation and hoots of “We love you Bill!” He did not make any reference to the allegations during the two-hour-long show.

Longtime Cosby fan Robert Belveal, 48, of Denver, said the protesters outside did nothing to deter him from attending.

“I believe that if you’re not convicted of a crime, then why should you be judged? All it takes is for one person to say something, then you have all these other people wanting to get their 15 minutes of fame,” he said of Cosby’s accusers.

On Friday, Cosby performed at a packed show in Pueblo. About 25 demonstrators gathered outside, chanting “no means no” and “Colorado believes the women.”

But inside the venue, the crowd warmly welcomed Cosby. Making his first appearance in Pueblo since a 1996 show at the Colorado

State Fair, he was embraced by a mostly middle-aged and older crowd.

On Thursday, Cosby released a statement thanking his fans and saying he’s ready to perform in Colorado.

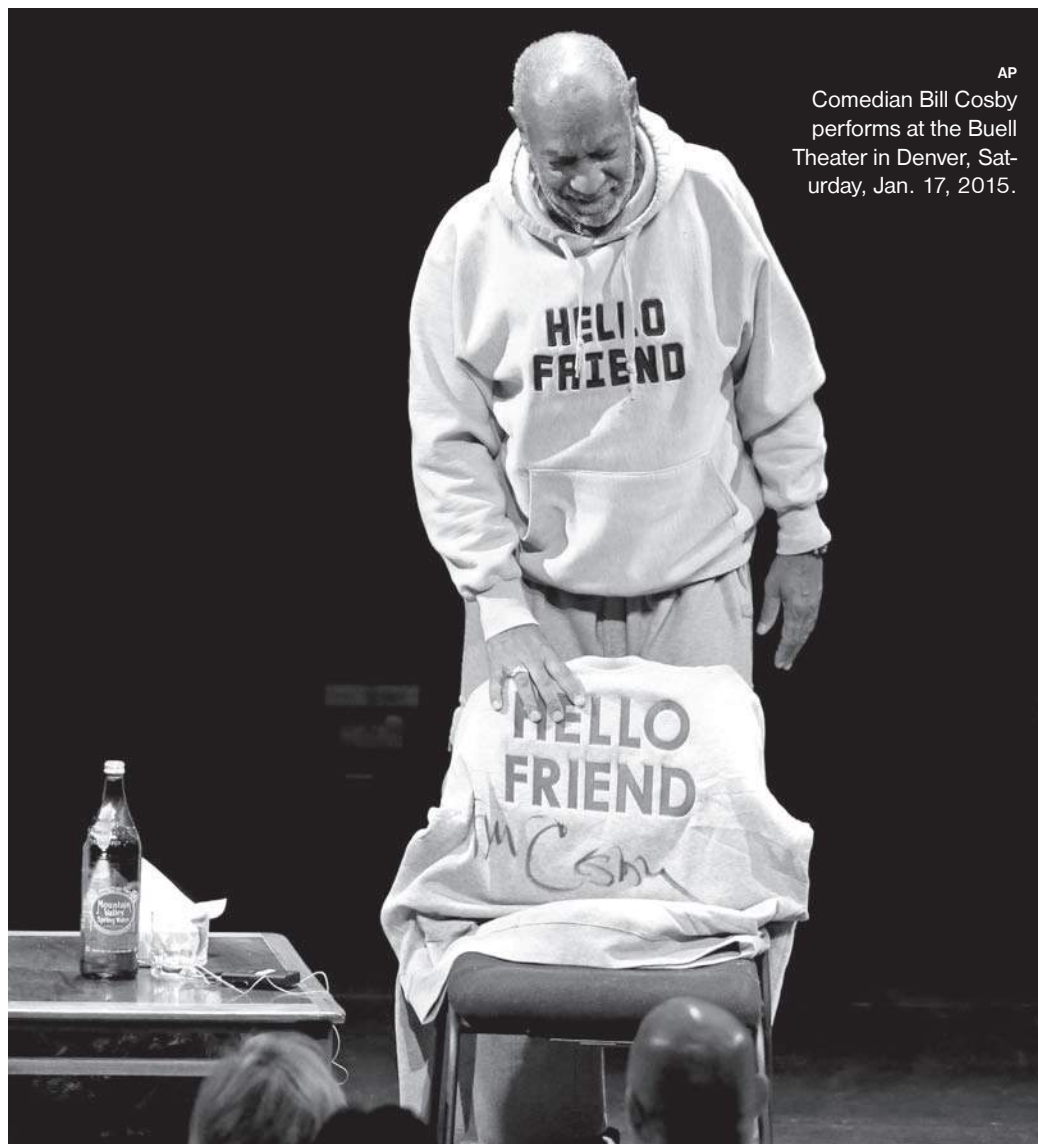
“I have thousands of loyal, patient and courageous fans that are going to leave their homes to enjoy an evening of laughter and return home feeling wonderful,” he said. “I’m ready!”

He finished his statement with references to his “Fat Albert” character’s trademark line and to his 2013 television special—“Hey, Hey, Hey—I’m Far From Finished.”

Cosby’s persistence comes after protesters interrupted a handful of his recent shows.

Hecklers stood up and chanted repeatedly “we believe the women” at Cosby’s third and final performance of a Canadian tour Jan. 9. The protesters then marched out of the theater as Cosby asked his audience not to react.

The day before, a man at Cosby’s performance in London, Ontario, called the comedian a rapist. The shows in Canada were the comedian’s first since November when a string of performances were canceled over the accusations.



AP
Comedian Bill Cosby performs at the Buell Theater in Denver, Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015.

Notes, photos of Jacqueline Onassis auctioned for \$28,400

MIAMI (AP)—A few dozen pieces of personal correspondence by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, along with photographs of the former first lady in Palm Beach, sold at a Florida auction Saturday for a total of \$28,400.

The items up for bidding at Palm Beach Modern Auctions included Onassis’ handwritten notes to interior designer Richard Keith Langham and Bill Hamilton, then the design director at Carolina Herrera.

Onassis corresponded with both men about clothes and furnishings she was buying from the mid-1980s through her death in 1994.

Letters written by Onassis rarely appear at auction, and the auction house fielded “tremendous interest” in the roughly 20 lots available, said co-owner Wade Terwiller.

“When we hold auctions of art and furniture, you don’t see people engaging in dialogue at the preview. This was different. People wanted to comment on her clothes and recall where they were and what was going on when Jackie appeared in a particular outfit,” he said.

Potential bidders related to Onassis’ thoughts on her personal style, which included detailed instructions on how she wanted her jackets and pants to fit and pleas for more color in



AP
In this Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015 photo, Rico Baca, auctioneer and co-owner of Palm Beach Modern Auctions, points to photos of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis by Bob Davidoff, who spent decades as the Kennedy family’s photographer in Palm Beach, that will be auctioned off in West Palm Beach, Fla.

her wardrobe, Terwiller said.

In one note Onassis wrote to Hamilton, along with her own sketch of a pant suit, she said: “I just love this suit & will wear it everywhere as I am SO sick of everyone constantly in black—like Mediterranean villages where everyone is in mourning for 20 years.”

“One of the women at the preview was reading that note and said, ‘I know what she meant about black. I’m sick of seeing black, too, and I’m from that generation.’ People really connected with Jackie,” Terwiller said.

The auction house says 1,100 people offered bids by

phone, online and in person. Co-owner Rico Baca had expected bidding to start from \$800 to \$1,200 for each lot.

Fetching the highest bid was a book about Onassis’s restoration of the White House, which she signed for Langham. It sold for \$4,575. “What fun it would have been to work with you then,” Onassis wrote to Langham in an accompanying note on her signature blue stationery.

A pair of black-and-white photographs of Onassis by society photographer Bob Davidoff, who spent decades as the Kennedy family’s photographer in Palm Beach, sold for \$2,200.

*In Celebration of
his New Life*

†Fortunato Ramos Mendez
Lovingly known as “Tony”
October 14, 1951 to January 15, 2015

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Primo Nafuente Mendez
†Ely Ramos Mendez

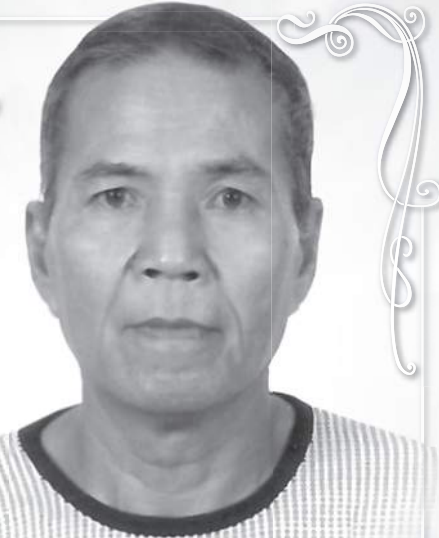
His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:


Wife: Cecilia Suelto Mendez

Common law wife: Minda Indalecio

Children: Honey Hinorga/Arnold and Children
Rizaldy S. Mendez/Emmie and Children
Ciela S. Mendez/Arnold – (Jhan Nary, Carlet Ann, Spnzyr)
Fortunato S. Mendez Jr./ Loisa
William S. Mendez/Michelle and Child
Mary Jane Indalecio – (Orlando, John, Ren Ren)

Siblings & In-laws: Meliton and Lourdez Mendez and Children
Rosario Rivera/†Rufino and Children
Danilo R. Mendez/Neneth and Children
Jerry and Gloria Pagarao and Children
Marina M. Lobrio/†Bong and Children
George and Carmen Magpayo and Children





Nightly Rosary is being prayed at the family’s residence in Dandan at 7:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, January 21, 2015, his remains will be escorted from the CHC Morgue at 7:30 a.m. to San Jose Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00 a.m. immediately followed by interment at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You
The Family

Inarritu's 'Birdman' explores ego and art, on screen and off

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Alejandro Inarritu says the only way to communicate the struggle between a celebrity and his ego in "Birdman" was through long, uninterrupted shots that move at the pace of life.

Those sweeping takes—the subject of much discussion this Oscar season—are intended to mimic the way people see the world, he says: "We open our eyes and go with a Steadicam all day, and we can't escape."

"When we get up, there are no edits," the filmmaker said. "The only time our perspective is edited or cut is when we tell stories—fiction—or experience a memory from our lives. But in re-

ality, our lives are—absolutely, all the time—only linear. They move in only one direction."

Inarritu felt he had to capture that sense of movement and bring viewers inside the characters' perspectives to express such a personal, internal notion as ego. His creative storytelling and aesthetic, where the whole film appears to be one continuous shot with no edits, led to nine Academy Awards nominations Thursday, including best director and best picture—a heady experience for even the most in-check ego.

"Birdman" stars best actor contender Michael Keaton as Riggan Thompson, a once-pop-

ular action star trying to prove his artistic merit by mounting a Broadway play. Emma Stone is his insightful, dispassionate daughter; Ed Norton his cocky stage colleague. Both Stone and Norton earned supporting actor nods for their roles.

Emmanuel Lubezki, nominated for his thrilling cinematography, carries viewers through the action: up stairs, down hallways and through windows. He called the photography "an experiment that thankfully turned out well."

So how'd they do it? Inarritu won't say exactly.

"I would prefer to have the rabbit in the hat," he said, but added the approach inspired

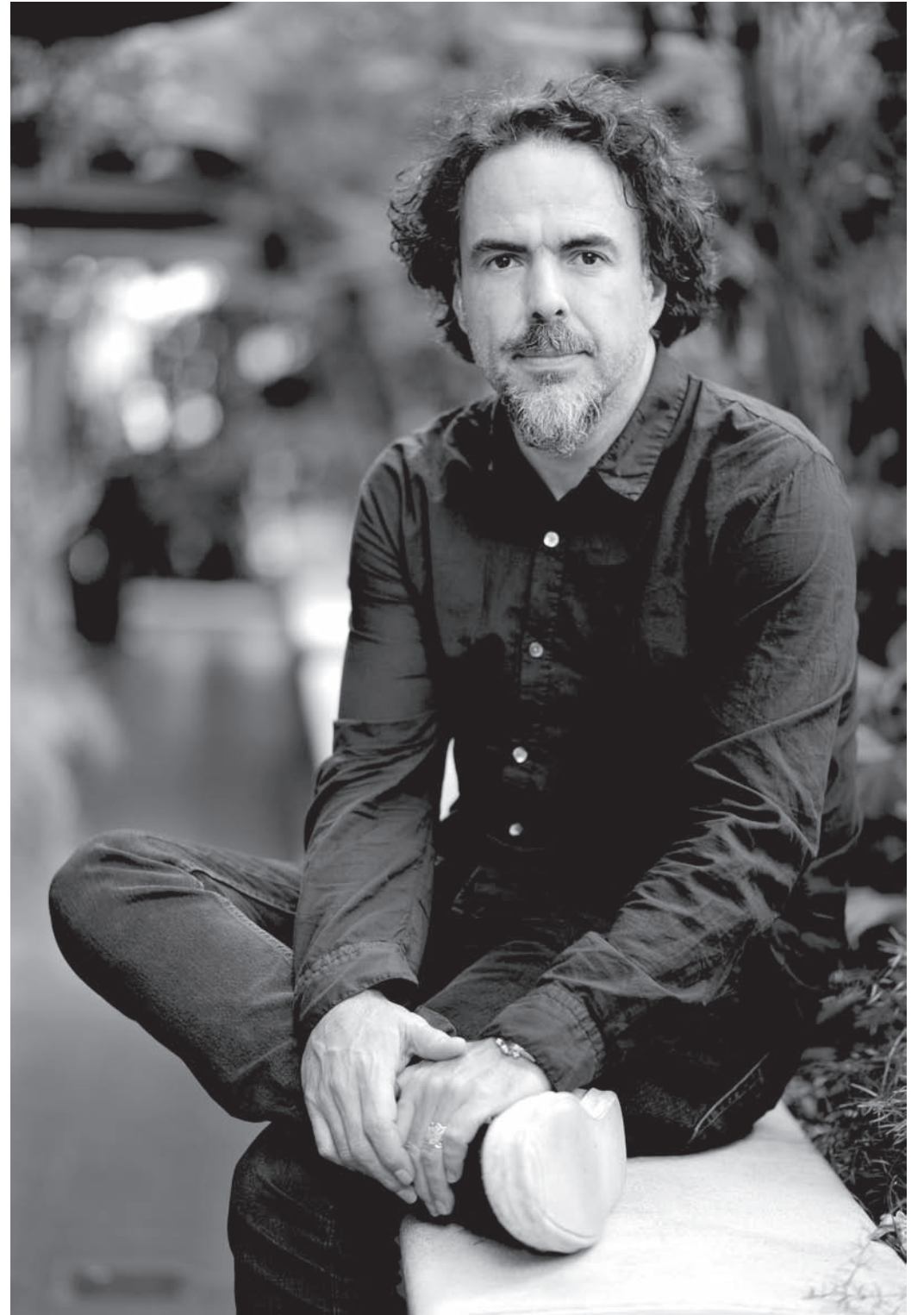
the actors and made him "more honest" as a filmmaker.

What we do know is those fluid, single-camera shots required pacing and tone—elements that would typically be manipulated in post-production—to be thor-

oughly addressed ahead of time. Instead of multiple takes, there were multiple rehearsals.

"I needed a meticulous exploration of every word, every step, every movement, every look of actors to define where that camera

will be and where it will come," Inarritu said. "So we got (the cast) together with much more time to explore dramatic objectives and to understand what the characters wanted, needed and how they will get it."



In this Wed., Dec. 17, 2014 photo, Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, director of the film "Birdman," poses for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles.

AP Exclusive: Academy president responds to Oscar firestorm

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Responding for the first time to the firestorm of criticism over the lack of diversity in this year's Oscar nominations, film academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs says the all-white acting slate inspires her to accelerate the academy's push to be more inclusive. She also hopes the film industry as a whole will continue to strive for greater diversity.

The first black president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences spoke out Friday night in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press about the Oscar nominations and the widespread criticism that followed.

All 20 of this year's acting contenders are white and there are no women in the directing or writing categories. After the nominations were announced Thursday morning, the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite started trending on Twitter.



Isaacs

The Asian Pacific American Media Coalition issued a statement Friday saying the nominations balloting "obviously reflects a lack of diversity in Oscar voters as well as in films generally."

Yet Boone Isaacs insisted the academy is "committed to seeking out diversity of voice and opinion" and that outreach to women and artists of color is a major focus.

"In the last two years, we've made greater strides than we ever have in the past toward becoming a more diverse and inclusive organization through admitting new members and more inclusive classes of members," Boone Isaacs said. "And, personally, I would love to see and look forward to see a greater cultural diversity among all our nominees in all of our categories."

A 2012 survey by the Los Angeles Times found the academy was 94 percent white, overwhelmingly male

and with a median age of 62. A more recent survey determined the percentage of older white males had dropped by one point, the Times said. But with nearly 7,000 members and no requirement to retire, diversity is going to take some time.

Boone Isaacs declined to address whether she and the academy were embarrassed by the slate of white Oscar nominees, instead insisting that she's proud of the nominees, all of whom deserved recognition.

She explained that while each branch comes up with its own criteria for excellence and each nominates its colleagues, all voting is individual and confidential.

For instance, only directors can suggest best director nominees and only actors can nominate actors. But the entire academy membership can submit suggestions for best picture.

"There is not one central body or group of people that sit around the table and come up with nominations," she said. "It really is a peer-to-peer process."

Zuckerberg's next book pick: Pinker's 'The Better Angels'

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Zuckerberg has made his next book club pick, a release he considers especially timely after the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

The Facebook CEO announced Saturday he would take on Steven Pinker's "The Better Angels of Our Nature," a widely discussed and occasionally criticized 2011 book that contends violence has decreased in modern times and the world has become more humane. Zuckerberg posted the news on his Facebook page and on a community page he set up for his club, A Year of Books.

"Recent events might make it seem like violence and terrorism are more common than ever, so it's worth understanding that all violence—even terrorism—is actually decreasing over time. If we understand how we are achieving this, we can continue

our path towards peace," Zuckerberg wrote. "A few people I trust have told me this is the best book they've ever read."

Among the book's admirers is Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who has called it his "favorite book of the last decade" and "a long but profound look at the reduction in violence and discrimination over time."

Two weeks ago, Zuckerberg declared he would read a new book every other week in 2015, and he invited his millions of Facebook friends to join him and participate in an online discussion. His first choice, Moises Naim's "The End of Power," quickly became a best-seller on Amazon.com and elsewhere. But only 162 comments appear for last week's book club chat held on the community page, which has more than 260,000 likes.

Within hours of Saturday's announcement, "Better Angels"

jumped from No. 6,521 on Amazon to No. 501.

Pinker, 60, is a leading psychologist, linguist and cognitive scientist who teaches at Harvard University and has written several popular books, two of which, "The Blank Slate" and "How the Mind Works," were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize.

"The Better Angels" is indeed long, more than 800 pages, so Zuckerberg is already fine-tuning his promise for a book every two weeks. He wrote that he'll need a month to finish "The Better Angels," but will recommend a shorter work in two weeks that can be read at the same time.

Pinker's book also continues Zuckerberg's apparent preference for nonfiction works, written by men. His Facebook page lists 13 books recently read—10 nonfiction and all by male authors.

Lee Daniels says he wants to expose homophobia

PASADENA, California (AP)—The creator of Fox's prime-time soap "Empire" said he wants to "blow the lid off homophobia" in the African-American community with a depiction of the show's lead character's hostile relationship with his gay son.

Lee Daniels, who was also behind the movies "Lee Daniels' The Butler" and "Precious," said that his own father's hostility toward gays frightened him and he knows the same attitudes are being passed on from one generation to another in households around the world.

"What we're trying to do is to give people the opportunity to see that what they're doing is painful," Daniels said at a television conference on Saturday.

"Empire," the story of a strong-willed music fam-

ily whose patriarch, Lucious Lyon, is portrayed by actor Terrence Howard, has gotten off to a strong start this month at the ratings-challenged Fox network. The series had the unusual feat of growing in viewership from its premiere week to its second, compelling Fox to quickly give the go-ahead to a second season.

During the show's first episode, Lyon learns he has a fatal disease and is battling with his just-released-from-jail wife over which of their three sons will take over their music empire. Lyon is openly hostile to his gay son Jamal. During a flashback, Lyon is shown stuffing Jamal into a garbage can when he sees the boy trying on his mother's high heels.

"I'm glad that I can show the African-American community

that this is what you're doing to your son, this is what you're doing to your nephew, this is what you're doing to the kid down the street," Howard said.

Daniels said that he believes if his father were alive today, he would have evolved in his thinking.

Jussie Smollett, the actor who portrays Jamal, said he's been overwhelmed by the response to the story line that he has seen in social media.

If there are viewers who can see themselves in Jamal, "that's incredibly dope and I embrace that," Smollett said.

At a time the movie industry is under fire for its commitment to diversity—only white actors received nominations when last week's Oscar contenders were announced—"Empire" is seen as making strides in that area.

'American Idol' talks of working with 'Empire'

PASADENA, California (AP)—"American Idol" producers have talked about a cross-promotion with "Empire," Fox's hot new series about a music industry family, perhaps getting some of the contestants on the scripted show, producers said Saturday.

"The music connection would be silly to ignore," said

Trish Kinane, executive producer of "American Idol."

The two shows air back-to-back on Wednesday nights. "Empire" has been a success out of the box, already earning an order for a second season, while age has cost "American Idol" its long-time status of television's biggest show.

Producers, host Ryan Seacrest and judges Keith Urban, Jen-

nifer Lopez and Harry Connick Jr. talked about steps being taken to get stronger performers among the finalists this season. While the show had good contestants last year, one reason the show faded in the ratings is because some of them could have done more to connect with an audience, Seacrest said.

More young would-be musi-

cians are comfortable working at home with their computers these days instead of in front of an audience, the judges said.

This year, before the show's group of contestants is whittled down from 48 to 24, they are being interviewed by the judges to get a better sense of their goals and strengths, Kinane said. Then they will be taken to a showcase

at the House of Blues in Los Angeles so the judges can get a sense of how they are as performers.

"If it makes them better performers, it makes a better show," said David Hill, News Corp. senior vice president, who oversees the show for Fox.

The show has also brought Taylor Swift's label head, Scott Borchetta, in as a mentor for the contestants. While he's already started work it's still not clear when Borchetta, CEO and president of Big Machine Records, will first appear on the air, Kinane said. Borchetta's successful independent label will take on the winner of this year's show with a contract.

The musicians said they can really see a difference with would-be musicians whose development

is a more solitary experience.

"There is something about going to a studio and getting out and being with other musicians and writers when you are making music," Lopez said.

Connick, a jazz musician who embodies his hometown of New Orleans, said that because of the Internet, young people are exposed to music and influences from around the world. That has its positives, but Connick said he saw how regional strengths are being whittled away when "American Idol" conducted auditions in New Orleans.

"It was really weird," Connick said. "I was looking for people who looked like they really came from New Orleans. But they could have been from anywhere."

Houston's estate criticizes Lifetime for movie on singer

PASADENA, California (AP)—Whitney Houston's family says the singer's fans should "brace themselves for the worst" if they watch Lifetime's television movie about the late singer that premieres Saturday.

Pat Houston, president of the singer's estate and her sister-in-law, issued a critical statement about the movie on Houston's website on the eve of the movie's airing. She said the movie was done without the family's blessing and against the wishes

of her mother.

"If you watch this movie, watch it knowing that Lifetime is notorious for making bad biopics of deceased celebrities and brace yourself for the worst," Pat Houston wrote.

She said she didn't think it entered the minds of anyone involved with the project that "what lifts up one person in the headlines may in fact destroy another."

A Lifetime representative said Saturday the network had

no comment.

The movie was directed by Oscar-nominated actress Angela Bassett, identified only in the family's statement as "a woman who claimed to be (Whitney Houston's) friend." Pat Houston wrote that "misrepresenting the term friendship to advance an agenda is not only disrespectful and dishonest but a slap in the face to her true and loyal friends."

"You should expect people will always rise to the occasion

for prominence and profit—not love, respect or honor," she wrote. "I question the morality of the making of this because of the lack of experience knowing Whitney's life."

It's not clear who, if anyone, in Houston's family saw the movie in advance, and the statement had no specific observations on the film, where Yaya DaCosta portrays the late singer. The statement said "selected members" of the family were denied an advance copy.

Best-seller about journey to heaven is pulled



NEW YORK (AP)—A best-selling account of a 6-year-old boy's journey to heaven

and back has been pulled after the boy retracted his story.

Spokesman Todd Starow-

AP
In this Jan. 9, 2009 file photo, Beth Malarkey, left, covers up her son, Alex, right, with a blanket after surgery as Alex's father, Kevin, watches at University Hospital's Case Western Reserve Medical Center in Cleveland.

itz of Tyndale House, a leading Christian publisher, confirmed Friday that Alex Malarkey's "The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven: A Remarkable Account of Miracles, Angels, and Life Beyond This World" was being withdrawn. Earlier this week, Malarkey acknowledged in an open letter that he was lying, saying that he had been seeking attention. He also regretted that "people had profited from lies."

"I did not die. I did not go to Heaven," he wrote. "When I made the claims that I did, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough."

"The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven" was first published in 2010 and told of a 2004 auto accident which left Malarkey in a coma. According to the book, co-written by Alex's father, Kevin Malarkey, he had visions of angels and of meeting Jesus. In 2014, Tyndale reissued "The Boy," which on the cover includes the billing "A True Story." As reported by Nielsen BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the print market, the book has sold nearly 120,000 copies.

Lorre throwing love in the direction of Charlie Sheen

BURBANK, Calif.

(AP)—Chuck Lorre won't clear up the mystery about whether Charlie Sheen's character will return from the dead for next month's "Two and a Half Men" series



Lorre

Sheen. His character was killed off and replaced as leading man by Ashton Kutcher.

Once television's most popular comedy, "Two and a Half Men" has faded with age. Its one-hour finale, but he's throwing a lot of love Sheen's way.

The television megaproducer said Thursday he has "nothing but good feelings" for Sheen, who was kicked off the sitcom in 2011 during a spectacular meltdown that included calling Lorre a "contaminated little maggot."

Lorre, producer of "Two and a Half Men," "The Big Bang Theory" and "Mom," said it was important to acknowledge the extraordinary success the show had with

nale is scheduled for Feb. 19. Lorre, in a meeting with reporters, said there will be a "cast of thousands" for the final episode but is keeping their identities a secret not to spoil things for viewers.

He also said he hoped to find a way to honor the Sheen and post-Sheen versions of the sitcom.

"I think we're going to have a finale that you're going to be very pleased with and that's all I'm going to say about it," he said.

Couple's age gap poses challenges to be overcome

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a man, "Richard," who is significantly older—17 years, actually. I'm in my mid-20s. I have no problem with it, as I have always been attracted to men who are older and have their lives together.

My parents are cool with it, but I know they have their reservations. Richard is not a sugar daddy; I don't love him for his money. I have my own success. I don't have "daddy issues," as my father is an amazing person who has raised me and my siblings well. My parents are still together and are great role models.

My friends can't find anything in common with Richard when we all hang out. It seems everyone around us is giving us grief—including his parents. I understand the concern, but how can I convince everyone that I'm happy and willing to take this relationship wherever it goes?

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

DEAR AGE: The way to do that is simply to BE happy and take the relationship one step at a time. While you're doing that, accept that relationships with this kind of age disparity are not without challenges. The friends you have now may never be comfortable around Richard, and you may have to make new ones closer to his age. Also, the women may look askance at you for being so young.

These things can be overcome. What bothers me about this

scenario is that this man's parents are weighing in. By now one would think they would have accepted that their son is an adult and capable of making his own decisions about the women in his life.

DEAR ABBY: A good friend and I are having a disagreement. My 17-year-old son has a 16-year-old girlfriend. I know they are sexually active.

I spoke to my son and asked if she's on the pill. He said her mom refuses to put her on the pill. I gave my son \$10, had a long talk about unwanted pregnancy, and told him to buy a box of condoms every few weeks and bring me the receipt so I know the money is being spent on condoms.

My problem is, my friend disagrees with me about what I did. She accused me of encouraging them. If I had a daughter, I'd buy the pill for her, so why not pay for condoms for my son? Who is right and who is wrong here?

MISSOURI MOM

DEAR MISSOURI MOM: The girl's mother may think that by not providing her sexually active daughter with birth control, she is discouraging her from having sex. Clearly that hasn't happened. Of course you are right to make sure your son doesn't impregnate his girlfriend. Neither one of them is ready for the financial and emotional responsibility of a child.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Something I'm unclear about is why your friend is trying to guilt you out of it, when she should be minding her own business. Please tell her I said so.

DEAR READERS: Today we remember the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was martyred in the cause of civil rights in 1968. His words ring as true today as when he first spoke them: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



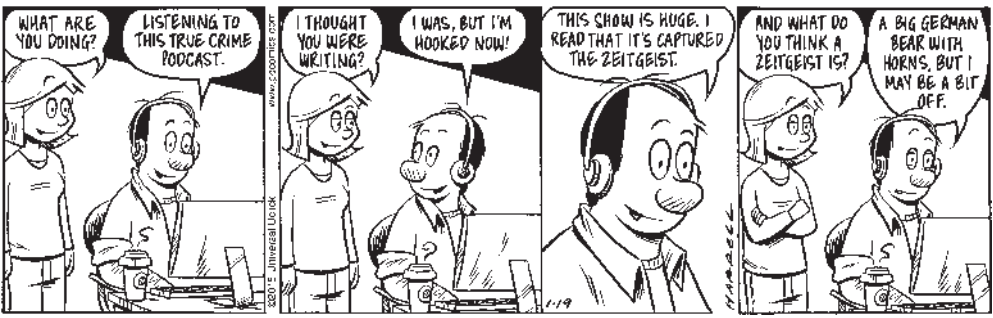
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



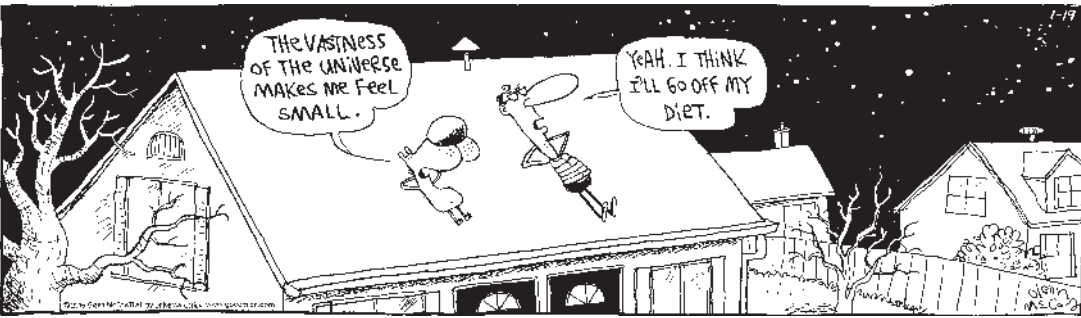
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Move rapidly
4 Movie award
9 Energy card
12 High fence
13 Crossing
14 Beehive
15 Use a comma
17 Greek consonants
18 Anti-qualified
19 Slow musical passage
21 Ener-vated
24 Anger
25 Flightless bird
26 Scarlet
28 Sharp flavors
31 "NCIS" role
33 Fix the sound-track
35 Pronto, in the ER
36 Cut corners

DOWN

1 Use a taser
2 Hosp. section
3 Writing implement
4 Stable hand
5 Adorned with
6 Spy-novel org.
7 Sacrifice site
8 Revise further
9 With causticity
10 Needle case
11 Mexican money
16 Police officer
20 Reaction re
21 Collec-tions
22 Uncon-trolled
23 Inflicting a penalty
27 Flop
29 Token of defiance
30 Celebrity
32 Village People
34 Cuts in half
37 South American prairies
39 South Carolina river
42 Low card
44 Chinese dynasty
45 Church section
46 Take to the skies
50 Sister
51 Journal
52 — Jima
53 U.K. reference book

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 1-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Shawn Johnson, 23; Drea de Matteo, 43; Katey Sagal, 61; Dolly Parton, 69.

Happy Birthday: Stick to tried-and-true methods. An impulsive move will set you back. Focus on personal improvements, not on trying to change others. Staying on course and showing discipline and determination will help you gain respect as well as meet your own expectations. How you handle others will have an influence in regards to a position you are offered. Your numbers are 3, 12, 21, 26, 34, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Search relentlessly until you find what you want. Don't rely on anyone to make you happy or take care of your responsibilities. Keep your personal secrets locked up. Reconnect with colleagues you have worked with in the past.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Education will be in your best interest if you plan to impress someone who can influence your future. Don't rely on someone who makes unrealistic promises. Put your trust and faith in what you know and don't be afraid to do things differently.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take an original approach to work-related matters. Think outside the box and you will impress someone you want to spend more time with. Bring about the changes that you feel will help you improve your life personally.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You've got to look at all sides of a situation you face. Compromise will be your best bet

and can help you develop a closer bond with someone you need on your team. Observe what others do and say instead of taking over.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't think about what should be done, just make it happen. If you don't take control, you won't have the right to make demands or criticize what takes place. You can make a difference, so stop waffling. Love is highlighted.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take time out to spend with friends, your lover or the youngsters in your life. Bonding with the people who are special to you will motivate you to put your life in perspective and pay attention to what's really important.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Step up and help out. Don't hesitate to reveal what you know. A chance to develop an idea looks promising. Love is on the upswing and will bring you joy if you take time to be with someone special.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on what you can accomplish and spend time with people who are interested in the same pursuits and you will reach your goal. Don't let an emotional situation at home stop you from doing something you really want to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Travel and communication can be very entertaining and informative as long as you do whatever is necessary to avoid confusion. Follow rules and regulations and you will be able to make changes that will improve your life.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Organization will be what counts. Once you have a handle on what is coming down the pipeline, you will find the path most suitable to accomplishing your quest. Be abrupt and ask questions if you need answers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can stabilize your position and your future if you are disciplined and implement what you have to offer. Your innovative approach will pay off if coupled with determination and a well-thought-out plan. Romance will brighten your day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer assistance to others, and favors will be granted when you make a request. Steer clear of any situation that might jeopardize your position or infringe on your reputation. A private matter will be unexpectedly revealed. Damage control will be necessary.

Birthday Baby: You are a crusader and a leader. You are diligent and respectful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1		8				9		2
	6		8				3	
3			1		9			7
		7		5		2		
	2		3		7		9	
		4		9		8		
5			6		8			9
	9			1			4	
4		2				1		5

Difficulty Level ★ 1/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	9	2	7	5	8	3	6
7	6	2	8	3	9	1	4	5
8	5	3	6	1	4	7	9	2
6	9	1	4	8	3	5	2	7
5	7	8	9	6	2	4	1	3
3	2	4	7	5	1	6	8	9
2	4	5	1	9	7	3	6	8
9	8	7	3	4	6	2	5	1
1	3	6	5	2	8	9	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/19

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHASE YOUR DREAMS

Solution: 10 letters

E	S	A	F	O	S	E	P	T	H	O	U	G	H	T
V	P	C	S	A	M	Y	R	E	V	E	R	I	E	I
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Banged-up Rodgers leads Pack vs Seattle



SEATTLE
(AP)—Eventually, the paths of Green Bay and Seattle were going to cross again.

After they opened the 2014 NFL season in early September, it seemed inevitable that Aaron Rodgers would get a second chance to throw at Richard Sherman—if he wanted to. That Russell Wilson would have to avoid Clay Matthews trying to chase him down. And that the Packers would get another opportunity to topple Seattle and be the elite of the NFC.

They were the two best teams in the conference in the second half of the regular season. So it's only fitting the Packers and Seahawks meet Sunday for the NFC championship and a trip to the Super Bowl.

"It's just the way it should be. It should be just like that right now," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

Don't be mistaken by their recent prowess, this wasn't a smooth ride for either franchise. Whether it was Rodgers telling Packers' fans to "R-E-L-A-X" early in the season, or Seattle dealing with the expectations of being a Super Bowl champion, along with the stunning midseason trade of Percy Harvin, this was no cruise.

"It was a process throughout the year," Green Bay linebacker Julius Peppers said. "You get better and better each week. That is the main thing you want to do each week, get better than you were before, and I think we accomplished that over the season."

Green Bay has added one more obstacle in the postseason: Rodgers' left calf injury that has limited his mobility. But Rodgers showed in last week's divi-



AP
In this Oct. 19, 2014, file photo, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers warms up before an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Green Bay, Wis. The Packers will take on the Seattle Seahawks in the NFC Championship on Sunday, Jan. 18, in Seattle.

sional-round win over Dallas he can manage just fine, throwing for 316 yards and three touchdowns in the 26-21 victory.

Now All-Pro Rodgers gets his first shot at an NFC title since winning at Chicago in January 2011. A Super Bowl victory over Pittsburgh followed.

"It's a different team," Rodgers said. "I think it's less than 20 guys still here from that team. It's only four years ago. But we have confidence that we can win on the road."

Rodgers' injury is slowing him from scrambling before throw-

ing, one of his strengths. His right arm is just fine. Rodgers got hurt during the Dec. 21 game against Tampa Bay. He still completed 74 percent of his passes in his last three games, including the win over Dallas. Coach Mike McCarthy has had Rodgers operating out of shotgun formations to help limit his movement.

Perhaps just as importantly for the Packers has been the solid work of the offensive line much of the year. All-Pro fullback John Kuhn, an excellent blocker, has also seen more time of late. Rodgers will need

Walker shoots 62, takes Sony Open lead

HONOLULU (AP)—Jimmy Walker has a two-shot lead in the Sony Open and knows how to approach the final round.

Don't let up.

The experience isn't from Monday at Kapalua, where he had a three-shot lead with five holes to play and wound up losing in a playoff to Patrick Reed. It's from last year at Waialae, where he emerged from a five-way tie for the lead by closing with a 63 to win.

"Somebody is shooting a low round every day, and you never know where it's going to come from," Walker said. "So you've got to go out with the expectation you've got to shoot a good score tomorrow."

On Saturday, one of those rounds belonged to Walker.

With a putting performance reminiscent of his final round a year ago, Walker one-putted his last 11 holes on his way to an 8-under 62, giving him a two-shot lead over Matt Kuchar and a chance to be-

come the first back-to-back winner of the Sony Open since Ernie Els in 2004.

"I feel good about what I'm doing," said Walker, who was at 16-under 194. "Like I said, I can only go out and control what I can do tomorrow, and I can't put anything on anybody else. I'm going to just keep trying to hit the golf shots, hit the shots I see, put it under the hole, give myself some good looks, make some putts."

Kuchar, one of three players tied for the lead at the start of Saturday, birdied two of his last three holes for a 68 and was two shots behind.

Without the strong wind typical of this tournament, there has been a score of at least 62 every round. That led Kuchar to say that anyone within six shots of the lead would be a threat in that final round.

If that's the case, this could very much be up for grabs.

Brian Harman (64) and Troy

Merritt (67) were three shots behind, while Tim Clark (68) and Justin Thomas (70) were another shot back.

The 21-year-old Thomas, playing in the final group on the weekend for the first time, twice made key putts to turn double bogeys into only bogeys. He was tied for the lead through 12 holes until going well long on the 13th and scratching out a bogey, then dropping another shot on the 16th before closing with a birdie.

Max Homa, a former NCAA champion from Cal, had a 63 and was five shots behind.

Walker, however, has been steady and good during his two-week stay in paradise. This was his 13th consecutive round under par in the Aloha State, and he was tied for the 54-hole lead last week at Kapalua.

Walker said the loss stung, though he was helped by the short turnaround. And playing good golf puts last week even further in the past.

SIDEBAR

Luck eyes big step as Colts take on Pats

FOXBOROUGH, Mass.
(AP)—Step by step, Andrew Luck has climbed into the upper echelon of NFL quarterbacks.

In each of his three seasons, he and the Indianapolis Colts got one game closer to the Super Bowl. Now he can reach that destination if he beats Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the AFC championship game Sunday night.

"I want to beat the best," Luck said. "There's a competitive spirit in all of this: 'Hey, the harder it is, the better. Let's go try and make it happen.'"

If the Colts (13-5) upset the Patriots (13-4), Luck will have accomplished a difficult feat: beating Peyton Manning and Brady in consecutive games on the way to the Super Bowl.

But a win against the 37-year-old Brady, 12 years his senior, won't be a major measuring stick for Luck's progress.

"That's not a benchmark," he said. "He's a great role model for any quarterback at any level playing the position, but it's a team game. To me, it's as simple as that."

Luck has piled up impressive statistics since being drafted with the first pick out of Stanford in 2012.

This season, he led the NFL with 40 touchdown passes and surpassed Manning's single-season franchise high with 4,761 yards passing. He's also

the only player to throw for at least 250 yards in each of his first five playoff games.

In his three seasons, the Colts lost in the wild-card round, then reached the division round and now are playing for the AFC title after Luck threw for 265 yards and two touchdowns in a 24-13 divisional round win over Denver and Manning.

"He's just stayed with the process," Colts coach Chuck Pagano said. "Right now he probably feels as good as he's ever felt."

And that's not good for the Patriots.

"He was pretty good when he came in and he's even better now," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "He's got a lot of strengths, no weaknesses."

Sounds like Brady.

The 15-year veteran will play in his ninth AFC championship game and fourth straight, but the Patriots lost two of the previous three. In last Saturday's 35-31 divisional win over the Baltimore Ravens, Brady led the Patriots back from two 14-point deficits. His three touchdown passes gave him 46 for his career, breaking Joe Montana's record of 45 in the postseason.

"We've shown a lot of improvement and it all leads to this moment," Brady said, "so we've got to be at our best."

When they drop back, Luck and Brady have plenty of reli-

able receivers to choose from.

top-notch protection against Seattle's tough defense.

Sherman, another All-Pro, was bored when Green Bay visited in the season opener. Through the entire game, Rodgers refused to throw at the cornerback, instead turning to the other side of the field. Sherman took Rodgers' approach as a sign of respect. It also left him frustrated. He described it as being a "12" on a 1-10 scale.

"Everybody's like, 'Man, that's cool, nobody threw to your side,'" Sherman said. "But if you're a player, you want to make plays in the game, you feel you can help your team, you want the ball coming your way more."

Sherman doesn't expect it the same this time.

"I'm not surprised either way," Sherman said. "But I expect them to execute their game plan, whatever that may be. Not sure what they're going to do."

Luck connected with eight against Denver. And one who didn't catch a pass, Reggie Wayne, needs 36 yards receiving to move past Cliff Branch for No. 3 in NFL postseason history.

"One of the things that I believe has been a reason for our success is the different playmakers that we have and the way that the ball is being spread around," Colts tight end Dwayne Allen said.

Brady completed at least four passes to six different receivers against Baltimore, including one touchdown each to Rob Gronkowski, Danny Amendola and Brandon LaFell, who caught a winning 23-yarder with just over five minutes left.

New England used a powerful ground attack in its last two games against Indianapolis. LeGarrette Blount ran for 166 yards and four touchdowns in a 43-22 divisional win last year, and Jonas Gray rushed for 201 yards and four touchdowns in a 42-20 win Nov. 16. But the Patriots rushed only 13 times for 14 yards against the Ravens, and three of them were kneel-downs by Brady in the last two minutes.

"We chose not to run the ball more than anything else," offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said. "It wasn't like we ran it 20 times and had 35 yards."

Griffin scores 30, Clips surge past Kings



SACRAMENTO, California (AP)—Blake Griffin scored 18 of his 30 points in the second half, Matt Barnes had 26 points and Los Angeles pulled away in the

third quarter to beat Sacramento, 117-108.

Chris Paul added 12 points and nine assists, J.J. Redick had 18 points and Jamal Crawford scored 13 off the bench for the Clippers, who bounced back from a sluggish first half to win for the fourth straight time at Sleep Train Arena.

Griffin had 13 points in the third quarter and then scored five over the final 3 1/2 minutes of the game to help Los Angeles to its fourth win in six games.

Jason Thompson had 23 points and a career-high 22 rebounds for the Kings, who have dropped three straight. Sacramento played without leading scorer and rebounder DeMarcus Cousins.

Hawks 107, Bulls 99

In Chicago, Kyle Korver made a season-high seven 3-pointers on his way to 24 points, and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Chicago Bulls 107-99 Saturday night for their 12th straight victory.

Al Horford added 22 points and nine rebounds as the Hawks matched the second-longest win streak in franchise history. Paul Millsap scored 16 and Jeff Teague had 17 points and 11 assists.

The Hawks (33-8) have won 26 of 28 since a 7-6 start, surging to the top of the Eastern Conference with one of the NBA's most efficient offenses and a stingy defense. They closed out the first half of the season with impressive road wins over Toronto and Chicago on consecutive nights.

Derrick Rose had 23 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for Chicago (27-15), which has dropped five of seven. Pau Gasol had 22 points and 15 rebounds.

Warriors 131, Rockets 106

In Houston, Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson scored 27 points each, and Golden State used a huge third quarter to roll past Houston.

Golden State bounced back from a loss to Oklahoma City on Friday night that snapped an eight-game winning streak.

The Warriors led by five at halftime and used a 38-point third quarter, with 15 points from Curry, to take a 22-point lead into the fourth.

Dwight Howard, who missed the first two games against the Warriors this season, led Houston with 23 points and 10 rebounds on a night when NBA leading scorer James Harden scored just 11.

It was Golden State's third win over Houston this season, marking the first time the Warriors have won a season series

Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan blocks the shot of Sacramento Kings forward Derrick Williams during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015.

against the Rockets since 2006-07. They finish the series on Wednesday at Golden State.

Grizzlies 102, Trail Blazers 98

In Memphis, Zach Randolph had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and Beno Udrih made two key baskets in the final minute to help Memphis beat Portland for its fourth straight victory.

The Grizzlies were up by as many as 20 in the second half, but the lead dwindled to 95-93 when Damian Lillard connected on a 3-pointer with 1:06 left. Udrih's 20-footer as the shot clock expired on the next possession helped Memphis maintain the lead.

Lillard hit another 3 with 27 seconds left, but Udrih made a 22-footer with 8.7 seconds to go.

Jeff Green and Courtney Lee matched Udrih's 17 points, and Marc Gasol finished with 15.

LaMarcus Aldridge led the Trail Blazers with 32 points, and Wesley Matthews had 25. The loss gave Portland its first three-game losing streak this season.

Wizards 99, Nets 90

In New York, Nene scored 20 points, three other Washington big men were in double figures, and the Wizards beat Brooklyn to split their home-and-home series.

Overpowered by Brook Lopez on Friday in Washington, the Wizards bounced back behind 10 points and 16 rebounds from Marcin Gortat, and strong bench efforts from Kris Humphries (13 points) and Kevin Seraphin (12).

Bradley Beal finished with 17 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for the Wizards, who shot 52 percent from the field to overcome their 14-of-27 effort at the free throw line.

Jarrett Jack had 22 points and eight assists for the Nets, who snapped a seven-game losing streak with their 102-80 victory Friday.

Lopez scored 26 points off the bench in that game and had 13 by halftime of this one. But the Wizards held him to two points after the break and turned around the game with an 18-2 run in the third quarter.

Pistons 107, 76ers 89

In Auburn Hills, Kyle Singler scored 20 points, Greg Monroe had a double-double and Detroit routed Philadelphia.

Singler shot 6 of 8 on 3-pointers and Monroe finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds as the Pistons won for the ninth time in 11 games and improved to 6-15



at home. Six players scored in double figures for Detroit, and Andre Drummond grabbed 15 rebounds.

Michael Carter-Williams had 15 points for Philadelphia (8-32), but only one other starter reached double figures.

Hornets 80, Pacers 71, OT

In Charlotte, Gerald Henderson had 20 points and Charlotte de-

feated Indiana in overtime despite playing without its top two scorers.

The Hornets outscored the Pacers 12-3 in the extra period to hand Indiana its fourth straight loss. Charlotte was missing injured Kemba Walker and Al Jefferson.

Lance Stephenson scored 13 points and spent a good part of the night jawing at his former Pacers teammates, particularly Roy Hibbert.

David West had 19 points for the Pacers, who were 1 of 9 from the field in overtime.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist grabbed 16 rebounds for Charlotte, and Bismack Biyombo had 14.

Timberwolves 113, Nuggets 105

In Denver, Andrew Wiggins scored a career-high 31 points and Robbie Hummel had two big tip-in baskets in the fourth quarter, helping Minnesota hold off Denver.

The dynamic rookie out of Kansas was 11 of 17 from the floor, including four 3-pointers, as Minnesota improved to 4-16 on the road this season.

Hummel finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds, while Thaddeus Young added 22 points.

Ty Lawson led Denver with 22 points. Jameer Nelson had 16 points in his home debut for the Nuggets.

Wiggins' big night also included nine rebounds and four assists. His previous high was 29 points against Sacramento on Nov. 22.

Price settles for record \$19.75M deal with Tigers



DETROIT (AP)—David Price has reached a \$19.75 million, one-year deal with the Detroit Tigers, avoiding arbitration.

The Tigers confirmed one-year contracts Friday with Price, right-hander Alfredo Simon and outfielder J.D. Martinez, avoiding arbitration with all three. Right-handed reliever Al Albuquerque is Detroit's only player left in arbitration.

Price's contract is the largest one-year deal for a player who filed for arbitration, topping Max Scherzer's \$15,525,000 agreement with the Tigers last year.

Detroit acquired Price in a deadline deal in July, and the move paid dividends when the left-hander held Minnesota scoreless in a division-clinching victory on the final day of the regular season. Detroit won the AL Central for a fourth consecutive year.

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg and the Nationals have agreed to a \$7.4 million, one-year contract and avoided

salary arbitration.

Washington also agreed Friday to one-year deals with starter Doug Fister (\$11.4 million) and reliever Drew Storen (\$5.7 million).

Strasburg went 14-11 with a 3.14 ERA last year, and his 242 strikeouts tied for the NL lead. He made \$4.1 million.

The 2009 No. 1 overall draft pick is 43-30 with 3.02 ERA over parts of five seasons.

Washington agreed Thursday with catcher Wilson Ramos (\$3.55 million), right-hander Craig Stammen (\$2.25 million). Second baseman Danny Espinosa (\$1.8 million) and backup catcher Jose Lobaton (\$1.2 million).

Reliever Jerry Blevins is Washington's only remaining player in arbitration. He asked for \$2.4 million, and the team offered \$2.2 million.

In Boston, the Red Sox agreed to a \$12.5 million, one-year deal with pitcher Rick Porcello and a \$2.25 million contract with reliever Junichi Tazawa as they swapped proposed arbitration figures with

pitcher Wade Miley and outfielder Daniel Nava.

Porcello, a 26-year-old right-hander, was acquired from Detroit last month after going 15-13 with a 3.43 ERA last season, when he led the AL with three shutouts. He made \$8.5 million.

Tazawa, 28, went 4-3 with a 2.86 ERA in 71 appearances last season, his fifth with the Red Sox. He earned \$1,275,000.

Miley is asking for a raise from \$523,500 to \$4.3 million, and the team offered \$3.4 million. Nava, like Miley in arbitration for the first time, requested a hike from \$556,500 to \$2.25 million. Boston submitted \$1.3 million.

If a case doesn't settle, it would go to a hearing next month before a three-person panel.

In San Francisco, After losing to the Giants in the World Series, Nori Aoki joined them.

The free agent outfielder agreed Friday to a \$4.77 million, one-year contract with San Francisco, a person with knowledge of the agreement

said.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

Aoki gives the Giants a proven outfielder to join regular center fielder Angel Pagan and right fielder Hunter Pence on the defending World Series champions. He also has the speed to bat leadoff if Pagan, who has battled injury the past two years, needs a break. He could share time in left field with Gregor Blanco.

Aoki, who sought to join a contender where he could play regularly and liked the Bay Area culture and geographical location to his native Japan, gets a \$4 million base salary this year, and the Giants have a \$5.5 million option for 2016 with a \$700,000 buyout. The option can become mutual, and the deal includes performance bonuses.

Aoki, 33, hit .285 with a home run, six triples, 22 doubles and 43 RBIs over 132 games in his lone season with the Royals after two in Milwaukee. He also stole 17 bases.

Pacquiao: I'm just waiting for Mayweather's signature



MANILA, Philippine—The mega-fight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. has never been this close to happening.

Just how close? Pacquiao said the only thing standing in the way of the possible showdown between the top two pound-for-pound fighters is Mayweather's signature.

The Filipino ring legend made an appearance on Huffington Post Live and he confirmed that negotiations for the superbout are already ongoing and that there has been an "understanding" between the two camps.

"My promoter and his promoters, there's negotiations already and there is an understanding," Pacquiao said in the interview. "I heard there's an understanding already. We're just waiting for the signed contract from them."

Pacquiao (57-5-2, with 38 knockouts) also confirmed earlier reports that he had already agreed to all terms, which include drug-testing, a 60-40 purse split in favor of Mayweather with a targeted May 2 date and the MGM Grand Garden Arena as the stage.

Mayweather (47-0, 26 KOs) has kept his lips sealed as of late but a source told mlive.com that promoter Bob Arum's recent public comments against Mayweather could keep the unblemished American from

agreeing to a deal.

"The best way to get the fight not done is for Arum to feel in charge. He did it with drug testing, he did it with trying to put the fight in Cowboy Stadium, he did it with the financial split. Arum talking is the best way to not get it made," the source told mlive.com columnist David Mayo.

Another obstacle is the two fighters are under contract with opposing networks. Pacquiao is with HBO while Mayweather is with Showtime. The two rival networks, though, could do a joint coverage the same way they teamed up in a blockbuster heavyweight tiff between former heavyweight champions Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis in 2002.

If a deal couldn't be done yet again, after talks in 2009 and 2010 fell apart, Mayweather has reportedly other enticing options. One is a rematch with Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto, whom Mayweather edged via majority decision in 2012, and British Amir Khan.

Cotto and Khan have been on a resurgence. The 34-year-old Cotto, the first Puerto Rican to win four world titles in four different weight classes after stopping Argentine Sergio Martinez last year, has successfully climbed his way back at the top since absorbing a TKO defeat at the hands of Pacquiao in 2009 winning five of his last seven fights via stoppage while the 2004 Olympic silver medalist Khan

has bounced back from a fourth-round TKO to Danny Garcia in 2012.

For Pacquiao, he won't mind if a deal won't be reached for a long-awaited bout with Mayweather but rather he would feel for the fans, who have been waiting

for a Pacquiao-Mayweather for a long time now.

"If you ask me if the fight happens, no problem. If that fight will not happen, it will never impact my career because what I've done in boxing, I'm already satisfied," said Pacquiao, the sport's only

eight-division champion. "I broke the record in boxing. I'm a playing-coach. I'm a congressman."

"My concern is to make the fight happen for the fans. Everywhere I go, even in Thailand, every place, the fans are asking, 'When will this fight

happen? When will this fight happen?' That question is not for me, it's for Mayweather. Millions of people are asking that question everywhere I go. It's kind of bothering me, that question. It's time to make the fight happen. The fans deserve it." (PDI)

Spartans rip Jump It, rule darts' C division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Jokers Spartans became the last champion squad of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association's Bud Light Cup.

The Spartans scored an easy 8-1 decision over the Joe's DNA Jump It in the finals of the C division held last week at Jokers Bar in Garapan.

JR Suel, Gus Camacho, Isaac Aguon, Ray Bosil, Kev Maratita, Ariann Pangelinan, Erina Olkeriil, and Joy Maratita tried to keep Jump It's title hopes alive, but faltered in their bid as they ran into a determined Spartans' side.

It was an easy outing for the Spartans as they zoomed to a 7-0 lead after matchups in the partners and singles events.

Mel Aldan, Dan Repeki, Jun Santos, and Joe Acosta combined forces to move the Jokers-backed squad one win

away from clinching the title in the race-to-8 match.

Isaac Aguon and Gus Camacho foiled the shutout win in the second partners 701 event.

But that proved to be the lone victory by Jump It, as the Spartans clinched the crown in the Half-It event.

The Spartans opened their Bud Cup title run with an 8-5 drubbing of the Barcode Breakers then moved into the semifinals with an easy 8-2 win over the Smoke Pub Snipers in a Last 8 matchup.

The Spartans, also the regular season champions, sealed a finals berth after breezing past Sand Juvy Ta Chagi, 8-2.

Jump It, meanwhile, trounced VFW Ombak Hit'Em Up in the quarterfinals and clinched the second finals berth with an 8-7 escape against Smoke Pub Bull-It.

The Spartans thus join the Naked Fish Ridin' Darry, Oleai Team Fearless, and the Sand Juvy Put3ska as the other division titlists.

The Ridin' Darry rallied to beat the Smoke Pub Hunters, 9-8, in the A division, while Team Fearless escaped with an 8-7 decision against the Sand Juvy 22 Snipers in the Tuesday B class. Put3ska tripped No

Fear, 8-4, to top the Fanihi B division.

The awarding of the regular season and Bud Light Cup winners is set on Jan. 25, starting at 10:30am at the Pacific Island Club-Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jokers Spartans players celebrate after winning over Joe's DNA Jump It the C division finals of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association's Bud Light Cup last week at Jokers Bar in Garapan.

REAL

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Crispy Pata defenders.

Tekopua's shot was so strong that Aninzo tumbled down, while trying hard to go for the save. Tekopua also fell down after the shot and was forced to return to the bench, as he hurt his elbow.

Carlson Cruzat came in for the injured Tekopua and on two occasions nearly scored. His first attempt to break the tie and put

Astig Futsal ahead came a few seconds after he checked into the game. He hit a looper, which Aninzo caught. The second try that came under the three-minute mark was the closest, as his shot just hit the left corner post.

Astig Futsal made several more attempts to steal the lead from Real Crispy Pata with James Ermitanio, Ryan Relucio, and Junsik Kim attacking their foe's defense. However, Aninzo was busy diving for

those saves and catching the ball as he had seen enough after allowing Tekopua two early goals.

With the match still tied after 40 minutes of play, the title game went into a shootout with Real Crispy Pata attempting first. Edwin Kim took the first shot and unloaded a strong one, causing Astig Futsal goalie Hark Joshua Galario to fall back.

Junsik Kim was next and first for Astig Futsal and failed to cash it, as Aninzo pushed the ball

away using both his hands. Park made it 2-0 for real Crispy Pata with his shot to the right upper 90, while Cruzat put Astig Futsal on the board, as Aninzo had buttermilk fingers and the ball rolled in.

Aninzo and Bada Lee were the next two Real Crispy Pata players to attempt and they were both successful, going for quick shots that went into the left corner. Ermitanio had the same shot, but Real Crispy Pata still had the lead, 3-2, and was ear-

lier declared the winner before league officials decided to continue the shootout as Astig still had two shooters left.

Anthony Fruit was the fourth shooter and kept Astig Futsal in the race with a quick shot to the right corner. However, Tenorio sealed the deal for Real Crispy Pata with a left foot shot to the opposite corner.

Tenorio earlier scored off the bench midway in the first half, as he picked up his own miss

and capitalized on Astig Futsal's mental lapse on defense. Galario moved closer to Tenorio near the baseline to help his teammate, but the latter let go off a kick with the ball hitting the post. Tenorio got the rebound and with no defender in sight went for the follow-up shot.

Real Crispy Pata got its first goal in the opening minute of the game off Park's free kick just a few feet outside the penalty area with the ball rolling past Galarion's hands.

DOLPHINS

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thrashing of Mt. Carmel School then had enough energy left in cruising to a 66-34 win over Marianas Baptist Academy in the afternoon match.

John Benavente, Karlo De Leon, Michael Espinosa, Irvyn Malonzo, Ethan Manalili, Kobe Mendoza, Tristan Montes, and DJay Ong have been doing much of the damaged for the Preston Basa-coached squad. The eight are either part of the regular starting unit and off the bench crew for the Dolphins.

Against MBA, MHS bombarded the Stormz with 15 3-pointers en route to the easy win.

Manalili fired four from the rainbow territory to finish with

20 points, while Malonzo buried three from downtown to end up with 10 markers. Montes tallied 9 points, all coming from 3-point range, while Mendoza and Espinosa had two each for 8 and 6 markers apiece. Benavente made the other 3-pointer.

MBA dropped its fifth straight match.

Meanwhile, Kagman High School, in the other match, improved its record to 3-1 following a 51-16 drubbing of Saipan International School.

Melvin Sakisat, Justice Evangelista, and Andrew Palino alternated in delivering the points for the Ayuyus to end up with 13, 11 and 9 points, respectively.

No SIS player finished in double figures with the Geckos scoring only one point in the second period.

Christopher Cepeda had 5 points, while Kim Hwan Ho and Carter Smith chipped in 4 markers each.

Mt. Carmel, in the final match of the day, dealt SIS a second straight loss following a 44-39 tripping to bounce back from that humiliating loss against MHS earlier.

William Camacho scattered 18 points to lead the Knights, who played minus Zander Tkel as the latter joined the Eastern Lightning to play a goodwill game against the CNMI's southern neighbors in Guam.

Markel Toves finished with 14 points also for MCS, which trailed 6-12 after 10 minutes of play.

Cepeda led the Geckos with 12 markers, while Smith and

Andrew Johnson tallied 10 and 8 points, respectively.

In other Saturday games, Saipan Southern High School cruised past its rivals with the Manta Rays waltzing to a 71-29 triumph over the MBA Stormz and closing out the day with a 66-42 ripping of the Grace Christian Academy Eagles.

Kagman opened up the jam-boree with a 52-32 trouncing of GCA.

Last Friday, Kagman clipped MBA, 73-28; Mt. Carmel defeated GCA, 49-41; and MHS breezed past SIS, 62-19. The Dolphins also scored an 87-56 triumph against SSHS last Wednesday night.

SATURDAY GAMES

KHS 51—Sakisat 13, Evangelista 11, Palino 9, Paran 6,

Parado 5, Lizama 3, Phillips 2, Torres 2.

SIS 16—C. Cepeda 5, Kim 4, Smith 4, Ramsey 2, Park 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-5, 28-6, 39-14, 51-16.

MHS 66—Manalili 20, Malonzo 10, Montes 9, Mendoza 8, Espinosa 6, Benavente 5, De Leon 4, Ong 4.

MBA 34—Manglona 18, Jong 6, Kong 6, H. Kim 2, W.J Kim 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-8, 29-18, 42-24, 66-34.

MCS 45—Camacho 18, Toves 14, Deleon Guerrero 5, Kim 4, Lee 3.

SIS 39—C. Cepeda 12, Smith 10, Johnson 8, Kim 4, Joyner 2, Ramsey 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-12, 22-18, 27-24, 44-39.

LIETO

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game was halted after eight complete innings after the Jets was left with an incomplete crew with one of their players needing to go to work. Jets manager Froilan Camacho agreed to take the loss.

Meanwhile, in today's match, the Fielders and North Starz try to bounce back from respective losses when they take on each other in the 7pm match at the Palacios ballfield.

In other news, SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifo said they are looking for a sponsor to help help them fix the lights of the scoreboard at the Palacios ballfield. For more information, call Rogolifo at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 234-6672.

Team Betde, Matansa triumph in futsal tourney

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Team Betde and Matansa Sparks clinched the championship in their respective divisions in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Team Betde took the co-ed U12 title after rallying past the Lil' Rascals, 7-5, while Matansa claimed the girls U15 crown, following a 5-1 domination of Shirley's Lady Blues.

The co-ed U12 division championship was played first with Team Betde, which topped the double-round robin elimination, starting slow, as it faced a 2-3 deficit after the opening half.

The Lil' Rascals clung to the one-goal lead after drawing goals from Taka Borka, Mark Essalan, and Go Sekiguchi.

Thaiph Austria and John Michael Rojas drilled the two goals for Team Betde and they continued to lead the squad in the second half to steal the lead from the Lil' Rascals and bag the division title. Austria and Rojas scored two more goals each in the second half, while Kohtaro Goto also made it to the board in the final 20 minutes of play.

The Lil' Rascals fell short in

the second half, as they only got one goal each from Esalan and Sekiguchi. Esalan registered his second goal in the opening minutes of the final half to give the Lil' Rascals more cushion, 4-2, before Austria and Rojas teamed up in Team Betde's fightback.

Team Betde was awarded the championship trophy after foiling the Lil' Rascals' upset bid. Members of the champion squad also got medals. Completing Team Betde were goalie Floyd Mina, Angelo Bergancia, John Ezekiel and John Guiller Canape, Jenny Ann Capayas, Kyla Mae Tuazon, Emelyn Aniana, and Franz De Ramos.

In the girls U15 finale, cousins Angel and Lyka Sally towed Matansa to the title win, scoring two goals apiece. Pinyarat Shankweiller notched the other goal for Matansa.

Matansa led at the break, 3-1, off Shankweiller, Angel, and Lyka's goals, while Jobelle Tabuena hit the lone goal for Shirley's in the first half.

In the second half, Shirley's was pressed to score as many goals as it can to catch up with Matansa, but simply failed to complete the plays. A frustrated Diana Maniacop made six attempts, all to no avail, as her three shots were off to the left, two were over the top post, and the other one was blocked by the legs of Matansa goalie



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Team Betde players and officials pose with their championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex. Team Betde won against the Lil' Rascal in the co-ed U12 finals, 7-5.

Carla Ballesteros.

While Shirley's had difficulty scoring in the second half, it was the opposite for Matansa. Lyka hit the first goal midway in that frame, as she faced only one defender outside the penalty box and converted the long shot. The last goal came under the five-minute mark with Angel

stealing possession from a Lady Blues player and unloading the shot from the left sideline.

Joining Angel, Lyka, Ballesteros, and Pinyarat on the champion squad were Haane Eugenio, Kiana Rife, Lizann Guerrero, Maile Aldrich, Mike-la Masayos, Sunny Woo, and Leisha Sally.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa and Shirley's Lady Blues players battle for ball possession during the second half of their girls U15 title match in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Rollers 1, Armatech stay perfect

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Rollers 1 and Armatech kept their unbeaten records after downing separate foes in the 2014 Tan

Holdings Basketball Classic last Thursday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Armatech topped Shirley's Coffee Shop, 56-39, in notch its seventh win in as many games

(as of last Thursday), while Rollers 1 improved to 5-0, following a 62-31 thrashing of the Ol'Aces.

Armatech may have won by twin digits, but it faced a tough opponent in Shirley's, which even took a 25-18 halftime edge before the former went to business in the second half.

Jeraldine Castillo led Shirley's good start, knocking in three triples, while four of his teammates also scored in the first half to threaten Armatech.

With her team in danger of absorbing its first loss, Chevy Kate Alipio stepped up in the second half to spoil Shirley's upset bid. Alipio, who was held to one field goal and 2 points in the first half, drilled 12 markers in the final frame. Alipio also found an unlikely ally in Nicole Malasarte, who contributed 8 points off the bench.

Irish Pagarao, Jeralyn Castillo, and Ka wai Yiu also scored for Armatech in the second half, as the team more than doubled Shirley's output in the final frame, 38-14.

Shirley's failed to sustain its momentum in the second half as only Jeraldine Castillo made more than two baskets for the squad.

In the last game of the night, Rollers 1 cruised past the Ol'Aces to snap the latter's three-game winning run.

Mike Arciaga and Djay Ong top-scored for Rollers 1 with 10 points apiece, while six of their teammates chipped in at least 3 points apiece en route to the 29-point winning margin.

Rollers 1 had the game in the bag right at the end of the first half when it built a double-digit margin, 26-12.

The Ol'Aces fell behind and never recovered, as only Tristan Montes consistently hit shots. Montes led all scorers with his 15 points.

Second Game

Armatech 56—Castillo 16, Alipio 14, Malasarte 8, Pagarao 7, Alferos 4, Yiu 3.

Shirley's 39—Castillo 16, Pablo 8, Echavez 5, Vergara 4, Phan 4.

Scoring by halves: 18-25, 56-39.

Third Game

Rollers 1 61—Arciaga 10, Ong 10, Fidelino 9, Factor 8, Espinoza 6, Vivero 4, De Leon 4, Iglecias 3, Cayading 2, Mendoza 2.

Ol'Aces 32—Montes 15, Moses 6, Nakashima 4, Miller 2, Leowell Cristobal 2, Leonardo Cristobal 2, Ermitanio 1.

Scoring by halves: 26-12, 61-32.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Armatech's Jeralyn Castillo pulls up for a running jumper against a Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan defender during their game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

MHS teams still unbeaten in volleyball

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Marianas High School teams continue to lord it over their opponents in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League.

The Lady Dolphins squeezed out a hard-earned 25-21, 25-20, 15-12 decision over its counterpart at Saipan International School, while MHS' junior varsity side had an easy 25-11, 25-13, 15-11 win against Mt. Carmel School JV last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Dolphins, with MHS coach Jacoby Winkfield fielding his regular starting unit, managed to thwart every comeback bid by the SIS Lady Geckos to turn things to their favor.

Shanna Flores, Knohlynn Gechig, Emily Jones, Beryl Kohnen, Sabrina Pangelinan, and Zarinae Sapong played solid defense and offense to power MHS V to its fourth straight win and remain on top of the 11-team field.

The Geckos fell short to MHS V, as fatigue may have caught up with SIS, which played back-to-back games that day. The Geckos dropped their sec-

ond straight match after they also absorbed a 25-23, 27-25, 15-7 setback against the Grace Christian Academy Eagles in an earlier game.

MHS, in an earlier contest, downed Mt. Carmel in an all-JV showdown in the first game with the Lady Dolphins remaining undefeated after three matches.

In other featured games, Kagman High School outsmarted Saipan Southern High School, 25-21, 25-23, 15-10, and Mt. Carmel

bounced back from an opening-set loss to foil GCA's attempt for a second consecutive victory, 20-25, 25-20, 15-12.

The match between the junior varsity squads of Kagman and Saipan Southern will be rescheduled due to school van issues.

Meanwhile, action continues tomorrow with SIS taking on Saipan Southern and Mt. Carmel facing off Kagman in an all-JV opening matches at 4:15pm.

The 5:15pm and 6pm games will be an all-varsity affair with Kagman battling GCA and MHS playing back-to-back matches, as the Lady Dolphins will first meet Saipan Southern before closing out against GCA. Mt. Carmel collides with SIS in the last match.



**Banged-up
Rodgers
leads Pack
vs Seattle**

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**Griffin scores
30, Clips
surge past
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Real Crispy Pata delivers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Real Crispy Pata escaped with a 5-3 shootout win over Astig Futsal in the boys U15 title match in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Saturday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Edwin Kim, Alex Park, Christopher Aninzo, Bada Lee, and Sunjoon Tenorio delivered in the shootout to save Real Crispy Pata's title run and foiled Astig Futsal's bid for a come-from-behind win.

Astig Futsal forced the shootout, as it worked its way back from a 0-2 halftime deficit behind Mareko Tekopua's pair of goals in the second half.

Tekopua nailed his first goal right in the opening minute of the second half, as he eluded



his defenders and unloaded the shot right in front of Aninzo, the Real Crispy Pata's goalie. Aninzo, who made a lot of saves in the first half to frustrate Astig Futsal, this time was a little late for help defense as Tekopua's shot went in.

Tekopua's goal fired up Astig Futsal, as the Jerishwin Angeles-coached team dominated possession in the remaining minutes of the second half. In one of those possessions, Tekopua nailed his second goal in the fifth minute, as he attacked the defense of Real Crispy Pata's Clayton Izuka and Lee. The Astig Futsal forward went for a very strong kick and the ball rolled in between the two Real

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Astig Futsal's James Ermitanio, left, and Keanu Diaz ward each other off as they battle for ball possession during the first half of their title game in the boys U15 division of the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament last Saturday night TSL Sports Complex.

Dolphins drub foes for 6th victory; Rays win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Defending champion Marianas High School has been

running over its opponents in the 2014-2015 season of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization High School



Basketball League. MHS recorded its sixth straight win after dispatching two more opponents in the one-day jamboree last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins, who have a roster stacked in every position, are scoring an average of 71 a game while holding down their opponents to 32 for a 39-point winning margin average.

Last weekend, MHS played back-to-back games in the jamboree, first scoring a 57-27

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JON PEREZ

Saipan Southern High School's James Kintaro, 9, tries to score against the defense of Mt. Carmel School's Jonah Hahn, 34, and Anthony Deleon Guerrero, partly hidden, in an earlier match. Saipan Southern and Mt. Carmel came up victorious in their respective matches in last Saturday's jamboree in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization High School Basketball League.



Lieto fans 18 to lift Falcons past Jets

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Peter Lieto recorded a season-high 18 strikeouts in leading the Falcons to a 10-4 triumph against the young Jets in Friday night's game in the Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Lieto pitched seven complete innings, holding the Jets to three runs on six hits with no walks. He fanned most on the Jets' batting order with Keoni Pua the only player to escape Lieto's striking arm.

Frankie Norita, Dave Matagolai, Henry Reyes, Anthony David, Zack Dela Cruz, Jason Reyes, and Mike Muna were struck out twice by Lieto.

Lieto even pitched three shut-out innings before Pua, who led off for the Jets and reached first base on a fielding error by

Falcons' third baseman Jeremy Atalig, scored the Jets' first run on Norita's RBI single.

Jess Celis closed out for the Falcons and gave up the other run on two hits with two strikeouts and no walks.

Atalig went 2-for-4 with two runs and one RBI, while Henry Iguel, who replaced Darren Pua in the seventh inning, had a two-RBI triple in a 1-for-1 trip at the plate and scored one run.

Lucio Kalen and Goru Isakawa made two runs each, while

Angel Falig, Frankie Lieto, and AJ Lizama also reached home plate.

Muna took the loss and was tagged with two earned runs on five hits. He struck out 11, but gave up nine walks. Jake Santos pitched one inning in relief allowing four earned runs on four hits with one strikeout and two walks.

The Falcons took the easy win one inning early, as the

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JON PEREZ

Jets pitcher Mike Muna throws to a Falcons batter during their game in the Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.